

The Storm – Prologue

KEY INSIGHTS:

- Climate change is underway. The effects will vary according to a broad variety of circumstances and interactions, some of which are not well-understood. Likewise, mitigation is not well understood, and will not take place quickly.
- The national security implications of climate change are proportional both to the speed of change and the extent. Public awareness should follow a coordinated strategic communication plan that focuses on maintaining credibility.
- Threats to national survival stemming from catastrophic change must be anticipated, evaluated, and neutralized to the greatest degree possible.
- The entire range of plausible threats needs to be delineated, then analyzed and early warning criteria established. The alternative approaches and cost-benefit analyses must be run to establish what can be done, when, and at what cost.
- While military forces have roles in disaster relief, the broader impact of serious climate change will require multinational, multi-agency cooperation on a scale heretofore unimaginable and could provide no-fault ground for global cooperation.
- Effective interagency action may require new legislation and better definition of Department of Homeland Security authority.
- Should global cooperative measures fail, the first impact will likely come from large numbers of displaced people who, by the very nature of their displacement, will become subject to malnutrition and disease; agricultural dislocation could aggravate or spark displacement and border security issues could arise as well.

The article had been written by Dr. Douglas V. Johnson II of the Strategic Studies Institute. I happened on it one day while looking for some information about something else. That was the summary of a 4 page article that discussed the implication of the global climate change. The Strategic Studies Institute is part of the US Army War College.

It was just an ordinary day, I had to get up at the crack of dawn when the grandchildren decided to have a riot in their bedroom and Missy decided to join me in bed. The parts came for the hot water heater yesterday and they installed them. Yesterday was Wednesday and we'd been without hot water since Saturday. It was an expensive hot water heater and it only lasted 4 years. They were bringing a new one today for only \$20 more than we'd paid for the now totally broken one.

We were hard up as usual and I told Sharon to not bother filling my prescriptions, which would pay for most of it. It was no big deal; I had 6 months of most of my drugs. You know how it is; if it's not one thing, it's another. The night before I watched an interesting show on TV about earthquake storms. Not swarms, storms. A swarm is a lot of earthquakes in one place. A storm is an earthquake triggering another one somewhere else. They gave one example I could relate to: The Landers Earthquake was a magnitude 7.3 earthquake that occurred on June 28, 1992. Its epicenter was located 6 miles north of Yucca Valley. Among the earthquake's aftershocks was the magnitude 6.4 Big Bear Earthquake.

Hector Mine is located 47 miles ESE of Barstow, California. It is the site of a magnitude 7.1 earthquake on October 16, 1999. This earthquake occurred at 2:46:44 local time (PDT). The Hector Mine earthquake was so strong that it was felt for 20-30 seconds in Las Vegas, Nevada. Many people were awakened in Las Vegas, with many reporting dizziness or trouble walking. Reports were filed as far north as Carson City, Nevada, where one woman reported waking up, hearing chimes in her house ringing.

The Hector Mine earthquake was the largest earthquake in that area since the Landers earthquake of June 28, 1992. Foreshocks were felt from as early as 7:41 PDT on October 15, with the largest foreshock measuring at 3.8. Nearly no damage was reported in the immediate area of the earthquake because it was centered on the Mojave Desert with no settlements for 14 miles.

Amtrak's westbound Southwest Chief (train #3) was an unusual victim of the earthquake. The train was traveling very near the epicenter when the quake struck. The combined force of the quake and train caused several rails to come loose and the train derailed. Only minor injuries were reported, and the train suffered repairable damage.

An earthquake storm is a recently proposed theory about earthquakes, where one triggers a series of other large earthquakes – within the same tectonic plate – as the stress transfers along the fault. This is similar to the idea of aftershocks, with the exception that they take place years apart. These series of earthquakes can devastate entire countries or geographical regions. Possible events may have occurred during the end of the Bronze Age, and the latter part of the Roman Empire. It has been suggested that this is what may be occurring in modern day Turkey.

Remotely triggered earthquakes have also been characterized as *the very long reach of very large earthquakes*. Fundamentally, it is postulated that large earthquakes can have an influence outside of the immediate aftershock zone, and actually activate other earthquakes at considerable distance. The further one gets from the initiating earthquake in both space and time, the more controversial is the association.

The physics involved in actually triggering an earthquake is complex. Most earthquake-generating zones are in a state of being close to failure. If such a zone were to be left completely alone, it would generate significant earthquakes spontaneously. Remote earthquakes, however, are in a position to disturb this critical state, either by shifting the stresses statically, or by dynamic change caused by passing seismic waves.

The first type of triggering may be due to static changes in the critical state. For example, after the magnitude 7.3 Landers earthquake struck California in 1992, it is said that the earthquake map of California lit up like a Christmas tree. This event reinforced the idea of remotely triggered earthquakes, and pushed the hypothesis into the scientific mainstream.

One of the clearest examples of remote earthquake linkage is the westward migration of large earthquakes on the North Anatolian Fault. A plot of historical earthquakes clearly shows this happening. It is inevitable that final earthquake of the current series will occur close to Istanbul, although, as always, the exact timing is unknown.

There is scientific evidence for a *long reach*, mainly in the form of discrete element modeling used in the mining industry. If rock is modeled as discrete elements in a critical state, it is amazing at how far a single disturbance can influence the mass. This happens every day, such as when a small excavation in a valley can bring down the whole mountainside (landslide).

It becomes much more controversial as claims are made, for example, that recent seismic activity in California has been activated by an earthquake in Chile. Although there have been many such associations in the historical records, the physics is difficult to justify. This is an area where much more research is required. (The material about earthquakes comes from various pages at Wiki.)

What, you may ask, does one have to do with the other? Global climate change, also called global warming, has to do with our air and the greenhouse gases. Earthquakes are geological phenomena. True, but so are volcanoes and volcanoes add a lot of greenhouse gases to our atmosphere. Mt. Etna is a volcano and the most recent eruptions occurred in April 2007, with the three recorded so far, the latest being on 30Apr07. If you check your sources, you'll learn that during the past week, about a dozen volcanoes were erupting somewhere in the world.

It would seem that the planet, with or without our help, is going to go through a climate change; that's MY assumption. If we stopped emitting all greenhouse gases in an instant, we'd still get global warming, with or without Al Gore. Don't hope it happens, he'll just run for President again. It's still a couple of years away, but we could end up with a witch riding a broom in the White House. I can only think of 3 things worse: Feinstein, Boxer or Pelosi getting elected President.

A word of warning, get all your guns and ammo bought before January 20, 2009. I also suggest you try to have your preps done by or before then. (A lot of people must have read that, ammo prices went out of sight in 2008, if you could find it.)

Between the Islamic extremists, who mostly moved to the US, the illegal aliens surging through our borders and them all holding a protest 2 days before, I became convinced it wasn't if, just when and what, not that I hadn't had the thought before. Our fearless leader wasn't doing a good job. It turned out Forrest Gump knew him, claiming he was like a box of chocolates, you never knew what you were going to get. His opposite number, Vladimir, was much more of a certainty; he was the same old thing in a new suit.

In many ways, this was like the late 1930s, the economy was a disaster, a new war was starting up over there and the guy in the White House was cozying up to his opposite

number. Different names, Roosevelt and Stalin instead of Bush and Putin, and Blair instead of Churchill. As much as Churchill disliked Hitler, he distrusted Stalin more. FDR mostly vetoed Churchill's issues.

Today, we already had two wars over there, one in Afghanistan and one in Iraq. We obviously hadn't learned anything from our experience in Vietnam. To top it off, Iran had a nuclear weapons program, Syria was getting ready to invade Israel and North Korea had tested a nuclear weapon. Iran had announced production of nuclear material at an industrial rate and Venezuela nationalized that last privately owned oil operations. People were complaining about \$2.60 gas when we were paying \$3.299 in Kalifornia. Plus the National Science Foundation was worried about wind turbines killing birds.

We already had one foot in the grave and wouldn't lie down. Most experts expected a nuclear terrorist attack on the US before the end of the decade. It has been when and what, not if, for a very long time. The news media had gone from reporting the news to being the news. There was a growing unrest in the country and a person could sense that something was looming and whatever it was, it wouldn't be good.

America had become a divided camp; one with good, decent Christian values who just wanted the country to return to what it had been when they were growing up. The other camp representing much of what was wrong with society, liberal attitudes, pro right to choose, with many more than willing to openly embrace illegal aliens, terrorists and the Good Lord only knows what else. They were pretty much uniformly the antigun crowd.

What do you need a semi-automatic shotgun for? Nobody should have a semi-automatic anything when it came to guns, they claimed. These people hadn't studied history.

The first thing that Hitler did was disarm the civilian population. He did it by invoking Article 48 of the Weimer Constitution that allowed the President to rule by decree without the consent of the Reichstag (parliament). This was done in response to the Reichstag fire that his people set. Using his new authority as Fuehrer, Hitler invoked article 48 and became a dictator for life. That was about 1934.

Of course, things are far different here; this is a free country, with just a few rules. The US Code is 4 books. On top of that, there are a few regulations, several more books. Tax firms that have complete copies of the IRS code and regulations plus the state codes and regulations need a small room to hold it. That's just the tax laws. You also need a full time clerk to insert the updates. If you had a full copy of the US code and regulations, the clerk should be able to keep up, but you'll need a larger room.

Keep those things in mind as you review my next effort. Everyone who knows my work knows that I'm superstitious and believe that bad things happen threes. As improbable as some of the happenings, they're always possible, if somewhat unlikely. As a result of the terrorist attacks on 9/11/01, the US went to war, first in Afghanistan and next in Iraq. Never say never.

The Storm – Chapter 1

"I had my shower last night, so everyone get a bath or shower as soon as the water gets hot. That was a dirty trick he pulled on us to make us buy a new hot water heater. I hope this one lasts longer than 4 years!"

"This is the brand he recommended, Gary. He said it was a good a brand as you could get."

"Our luck, it was made in China out of Melamine."

"It was not, it's a Bradford White made in Pennsylvania. At least it's the size they recommend for this size of house."

"You only know that because I looked it up."

"I hadn't planned on the expense; money will be tight this month."

"Money is tight every month. I hope the bank will let us have the money to get your cataracts fixed. You won't need glasses after that, except to read. It looks like Fred Thompson may consider a run for President."

"He's a good actor, better than either George or Bill."

"Everyone is a better actor than those two guys. When is Father's Day?"

"June 17th, why?"

"I'm dying to get my hands on the shotgun."

"How much will the ammo cost?"

"About \$400, I want a case of slugs and a case of 12 pellet 00 Buck."

"Derek said you should have #4 Buck."

"Ok, I'll take a case of that too."

"That's a lot of ammo, Gary."

"You're right, 250 rounds of each. I'll start with the double aught and go from there. I still have 2,000 rounds of South African for the rifle."

"How much ammo do you have for the .32?"

"Sixteen rounds. I suppose I ought to get a box of 50 FMJ cartridges for it and a brick of .22 for the poodle shooter in my sock drawer."

"Why not more ammo for the .32?"

"That's a backup gun. Amy and you both promised me a .45 for Christmas. I'll get a case for that, probably 230 grain Gold Dot."

"What's Gold Dot?"

"Hollow points."

"Not that I want to spend the money, but what are Amy and I going to do for weapons if we need them?"

"Have you ever fired a gun?"

"Herb's shotgun, a .410. I shot it at a tree about 25' away and missed."

"We definitely need #4 Buck. I'm not sure, I'll take the rifle and the .45 with the .32 for backup. Maybe what Amy and you need are Mini-14s."

"Why those?"

"For one, they're still legal in Kalifornia. For two, I can fix them up nice and buy some 30 round Pro Mag (PMI) magazines. They're the same caliber as the M-16 and don't kick. You hit someone with them using the proper ammo and you'll stop them."

"What's the proper ammo?"

"Probably hollow points or a mix of soft points and hollow points. A Mini-14 is a smaller version of my M1A."

"Are you talking about fixing them up like that last one?"

"Yes, Butler Creek folding stock and a flashhider. They won't be legal in that configuration, but I can switch them back in about 3 minutes."

"How much are they?"

"List price is \$775 plus tax and background check. Figure about \$865 per rifle, another \$100 for the stock and maybe \$15 for the flashhider. I suppose \$1,000 per rifle plus the cost of the magazines and the ammo."

"How much is the ammo?"

"About \$360 for 1,000-rounds of hollow point. Maybe that's all we'd get, 1,000 rounds per rifle."

"Do you really need the folding stock and flashhider?"

"No, why?"

"How much for the magazines?"

"\$35 each and we'll need at least 7 per rifle."

"Why 7?"

"Standard combat load is 210 rounds."

"So, let me add this up. \$865 per rifle plus \$360 for ammo plus about \$245 for magazines? Is that right?"

"Yes, about \$1,475 complete plus 2 mag pouches and a pistol belt, so call it \$1,500 per."

"THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS?"

"Would you rather have a 12 gauge?"

"How much?"

"About half the price of the rifle and you have only 250 rounds of ammo."

"What is the range of the shotgun?"

"I looked it up on Wiki. They claim that using Brenneke slugs, you can shoot the 12 gauge 100 yards, max."

"I think that is far enough, don't you?"

"Probably. You have to understand one thing about the shotgun."

"What's that?"

"It's an 8 shot."

"What about that Mossberg 590? Don't they have a 9 round capacity?"

"Yes, and it would run about \$399."

"How much total when they're not sale?"

"A total of \$457.99 including the \$25 quick check fee."

"Each?"

"Yes."

"The Mossberg is fine with Amy and me. What's the price when they're not on sale?"

"A total on sale \$382.22."

"Each?"

"Yes"

"So, we save a total of \$75.77 per shotgun on sale for a total of \$151.54?"

"Yes."

"How much for a case of Brenneke slugs?"

"\$109.98 plus shipping."

"From where?"

"Northwest Loading Supply. The Brenneke slugs fly true to about 100 yards and many police departments prefer them."

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The more I thought about it, the more I liked the 590A1. Unlike my M1A, it had a bayonet lug. I have to swap out my M1A Muzzle Break for a flashhider with the bayonet lug. Fulton Armory sold them and I could probably get one refinished to match the finish on my M1A. Better still, Mossberg sold the ghost ring sight kit and I could get a gunsmith to install it. Derek said that if you had to use a bayonet, you were too close. Fine in theory, but Derek was in Flippin and we were here, in Palmdale. With money being as tight as it was, every little bit helped. I didn't need to buy any of the extras right now.

The refineries couldn't produce gas fast enough and the price in Kalifornia went over \$4 a gallon before the rest of the nation hit an average of \$3.50. I'd listened to John Galt on Steve Quayle's Q-Files talking about the Blunder. I even commented on the website where he posted some of the transcript. I said, "Next week's show ought to be something. I won't be Amy IF I can prevent it. We're already living hand to mouth, the next thing to go will be our prescriptions."

John replied he was tired too, but I didn't have anything to worry about, the government would pay for my prescriptions. I occurred to me that John didn't understand how Medicare part D worked. My prescriptions ran about \$1,000 a month without insurance and that little gap in there took food off our table. He talked about a storm, but I'm not sure it's the same storm this story is about.

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So we wait until I was over the hump on the prescriptions and then for the shotguns to be on sale. We bought 3 ea. Mossberg 590A1s and Fleataxi will have a heart attack. I'd often spared with my amigo over the phone insisting I'd never buy a Mossberg. That's right, he's now the 4th Amigo. I don't have a SU-16 like he does, but Ron's got one and I got some 30 round M-16 magazines for him.

I wanted more magazines for my M1A, but the money was never there. Derek said it was ok because with all my magazines loaded, I had 210 rounds, a full combat load. You know I have 10 20s and 1 10 rounder, right? Ignore that, I live in Kalifornia and they aren't legal here. Well, I guess they are, I got them before the year 2000 and no one can prove otherwise.

By the time summer was over, we had a case each of Brenneke slugs, 00 Buck and #4 Buck. In fact, planning on getting the Springfield Armory High Capacity GI .45, I bought 250 rounds of 230 grains Gold Dot, and a holster. All I needed was the gun. I believe the reason they're making me wait so long is that they're hoping I die before they have to buy them, LOL.

Getting back to the Q Files, John Galt is an interesting choice of names. In the world of Atlas Shrugged, society stagnates when independent productive achievers began to be socially demonized and even punished for their accomplishments, even though society had been far more healthy and prosperous by allowing, encouraging and rewarding self-reliance and individual achievement. Independence and personal happiness flourished to the extent that people were free, and achievement was rewarded to the extent that individual ownership of private property was strictly respected. The hero, John Galt, lives a life of laissez-faire capitalism as the only way to live consistent with his beliefs.

Atlas Shrugged is a political book. It portrays fascism, socialism and communism – any form of state intervention in society – as systemically and fatally flawed. However, Rand claimed that it is not a fundamentally political book, but that the politics portrayed in the novel are a result of her attempt to display her image of the ideal person and the individual mind's position and value in society.

Rand argues that independence and individual achievement enable society to survive and thrive, and should be embraced. But this requires a "rational" moral code. She argues that, over time, coerced self-sacrifice causes any society to self-destruct. She is similarly dismissive of faith beyond reason, in a God or higher being, or anything else as an authority over one's own mind. The book positions itself against religion spe-

cifically, often directly within the characters' dialogue. I read that back in the early '60s when I was stationed at Edwards AFB. It was around the same time that I read her older book, *The Fountainhead*.

It was an interesting choice of names. As the Grail Knight said, "You have chosen... wisely."

I called Fleataxi to tell him I bought 3 590A1s. He first called me a liar and next asked me when I'd pulled my head out of my butt. I told him the story about the women wanting guns and how for half the money of two Mini-14s, we'd gotten the 3 590A1s and 3 cases of ammo. He asked when I was going to get a Glock and I told him as soon as they started to make them out of metal. He claims that, "Glocks Rule, Berettas Drool!" He also quotes *Get yourself a Glock, and lose that nickel-plated sissy-pistol!* - Tommy Lee Jones - *US Marshals*. Somehow I think the sissy pistol was about right for Robert Downey, Jr.

Damon and Fleataxi got to be good friends and they talk on the phone more often than Damon talks to me. Russ said I should get the hell out of the PRK, but we couldn't do it because of our finances. Thank God he keeps me up to date on the stuff I miss on the World Wide Web. He subscribes to a few places I don't and he sometimes shares. If Bush persists in putting missiles in Europe, we'll start the Cold War back up. That's what caused the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Jupiter missiles in Turkey.

In 1961 the US started deploying 15 Jupiter IRBM (intermediate-range ballistic missiles) nuclear missiles near Izmir, Turkey, which directly threatened cities in the western sections of the Soviet Union, including Moscow through its 1500 mile range and flight time of about 16 minutes. These missiles were regarded by President Kennedy as being of questionable strategic value; an SSBN (ballistic submarine) was capable of providing the same coverage, with both stealth and superior firepower.

Khrushchev had publicly expressed his anger at the Turkish deployment, and regarded the missiles as a personal affront. The deployment of missiles in Cuba – the first time Soviet missiles were moved outside the USSR – is commonly seen as Khrushchev's direct response to the Turkish missiles. Khrushchev had previously expressed his doubts to the poet Robert Frost about the readiness of the *liberal* United States to fight over tough issues

It was in this environment that Cuba and the Soviet Union agreed to place nuclear weapons in Cuba, with the understanding that an invasion would potentially be met by a nuclear response. Khrushchev devised the deployment plan in May of 1962, and by late July, over sixty Soviet ships were en route to Cuba, some of them already carrying military matériel. I read something called *Space War* and they've commented on this extensively. Putin has already said that they will abrogate the Treaty to stay out of Europe if we put ABMs in Europe.

On the other hand, I've already explained that the Cold War never ended, it just changed character. Russia is building new SSBNs of the Borei class that are smaller than their Typhoons. In fact, the Borei class was the size of an Ohio class. The Bulava (SS-NX-30) is the submarine-launched version of Russia's most advanced missile, the Topol-M (SS-27) solid fuel ICBM. Not only are the Russians going to build a new class of SSBN, they're also going to upgrade the Typhoons to use the Bulava. The Bulava was successfully fired from a Typhoon class sub in late 2005.

The Cold War never ended, it simply changed character. Russia had some adjusting to do, that war in Afghanistan had destroyed the economy of the country. All they needed was a small dose of capitalism and 15 years after the Berlin Wall fell, they were ready to resume their goal of global domination. They had money now, from oil and gas, gold and diamonds, with hydrocarbons being their main source of income.

Those who don't remember history are condemned to repeat it, or something like that, George Santayana, over 100 years ago. Ours was the oldest Republican Democracy in the world and had outlived all of the historic Democracies. However, like those Democracies, we too had proven to be our worst enemy and our Republic was beginning to collapse. Before the Roman Empire (Democracy), there was the Roman Republic. That died with Julius Caesar. Was that to be our ultimate end? According to Wiki, there were 4 remaining Empires in the world in the 21st century: British Empire, Dutch Empire, French Empire and American Empire. The United Kingdom still has many overseas territories remaining. French Guiana remains an overseas territory of France. The Dutch West Indies remain an overseas territory of the Netherlands to this day. As of 2006 the US maintains over 702 bases in 135 of the 195 sovereign independent nations of the world.

Whether we were an Empire was a hotly debated question. Generally, scholars define an empire as a state that extends dominion over areas and populations distinct culturally and ethnically from the culture/ethnicity at the center of power. Other definitions may emphasize economic or political factors. The term generally implies military hegemonic power.

Hegemony is the dominance of one group over other groups, with or without the threat of force, to the extent that, for instance, the dominant party can dictate the terms of trade to its advantage; more broadly, cultural perspectives become skewed to favor the dominant group. The cultural control that hegemony asserts affects commonplace patterns of thought: hegemony controls the way new ideas are rejected or become naturalized in a process that subtly alters notions of common sense in a given society.

Pax Americana (American Peace) is a term to describe the period of relative peace in the Western world since the end of World War II in 1945, coinciding with the dominant military and economic position of the United States. It places the United States in the military and diplomatic role of a modern-day Roman Empire, succeeding the British Empire. The United States is often criticized of not taking up the mantle following the disintegration of Pax Britannica before the First World War due to inward-looking isola-

tionist policies. During this period, no armed conflict has emerged among major Western nations themselves, and no nuclear weapons have been used, although the United States and its allies have been involved in various regional wars (such as the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Falklands War, the Gulf War, the Afghanistan War and the Iraq War) and have maintained espionage and covert operations in various other areas.

The Bush Doctrine is the name given to a set of guidelines first unveiled by US President George W. Bush in a speech given on 01Jun02. The policies, taken together, outlined a broad new phase in US policy that would place greater emphasis on military pre-emption, military superiority (*strength beyond challenge*), unilateral action, and a commitment to *extending democracy, liberty, and security to all regions*.

My problem was the research I did using the World Wide Web. It allowed me to review most aspects of the American experience while it occurred. Because of what I learned doing that, I became increasingly concerned. While Sharon didn't totally buy into my paranoia, she was a good wife and tried. Although I was pretty much crippled by the diabetes, barely able to carry my new M1A rifle, she allowed me to pursue our feeble attempts to be prepared.

In many of my stories, I'd had to come up with a gimmick to allow us to build that bomb shelter in the backyard. Without the gimmick, we were just like everyone else, we couldn't afford a shelter. It wasn't something you could get a bank to finance, either you had the money or you didn't. If you wanted to risk going further into debt, you could refi the house. When you're living hand to mouth, you save that equity for something important, like fixing her eyes.

I didn't get involved in it and when the bank turned us down, she went to plan B, she refinanced the house and the interest rate was only 7%, up from our previous loan by 1%. She got enough for her eyes, \$4,800, and a little extra I could spend on preps. You can't build a shelter for \$15,000. But, you can buy the AV-150 and the blast door for half of that; \$5,200 for the AV-150 and \$2,500 for the UT1 blast door, plus shipping.

I ordered them and waited until everything was delivered. I had plenty of time to stake out the spot in the backyard where I wanted to put the shelter. There was enough money left to get the hole dug and the dirt stacked so we could put in a 10' dirt cover over the shelter. Ron came by one hot July day and looked at my hole in the ground.

"Swimming pool?"

"No way, Jose; that's the hole for my bomb shelter."

"What's in the boxes?"

"The ones on the patio? I have an AV-150 and a UT1 blast door."

"What are you going to use for power?"

"I have the PowerBOSS 7000."

"Gasoline?"

"Yeah, we got it at Costco."

"What are you going to put in for a shelter?"

"I thought maybe I build with 2x12 joists 12" on center, it should support the weight. I'd have to run a beam down the center, but I'd have to do that even in a concrete shelter."

"Let me know when you start Gar-Bear, I'd like to watch."

There are approved formulas for calculating the depth required, however, a rule of thumb for calculating the depth of a floor joist for a residential property is; half the span in feet plus two inches. For example the joist depth required for a 14 foot span is 9 inches. I was thinking of a shelter 30' wide with a beam in the center, giving a span of 15'. Half of 15 is 7½ plus 2 equals 9½, so I probably could have gotten by with 2x10s, but for the difference in cost, I figured to go with the strength.

I still had about \$3,000 left, but need a gasoline tank, a water tank, a waste tank and a sewage pump. My generator used about 1 gallon per hour at full power, but if we went with a 12 volt system except for the stove, and had some batteries, we could use the built in charger and maybe get by for ½gph. With the price of gas at \$4 a gallon, it would almost take a bank loan to fill a 1,000 gallon gasoline tank.

I decided I could use plastic tanks for water and sewage and would only need a 1,500 gallon metal gasoline tank. I put an ad in the paper stating I wanted to buy a used 1,500-gallon gas tank. On the 7th day, the last day the ad would run, I got a call from a fella who said he had a tank but it would need to be sanded and repainted. He'd sell it for \$1,000. After being assured it didn't leak, I told him to bring it over and I'd write him a check.

I was down to \$2,000 and a hole in the ground, but closer than I had been. I got a 2,000 gallon plastic water tank and a 500 gallon plastic septic tank plus a sewage pump with the remaining money. As soon as I had a little money, I'd buy pipes and install the tanks. With copper running about \$4 a foot, I'd have to get by with galvanized pipes. Plus, I'd have to start taking vitamins to have the strength to build the shelter and install all of the plumbing.

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I wanted the sewage tank below the shelter, so that meant digging another hole. Ron came by a couple of times and watched me digging the hole, but didn't offer to help until I was ready to install the septic tank.

"Do you have blueprints?"

"I have a drawing, partner, why?"

"You have to know where everything goes so you can put in the soil pipe."

"The sink is almost directly above the septic tank and the toilet is over there. We'll need to run a 10' section to get to the john."

"You going to put a sink in the bathroom? What about a shower or a bathtub?"

"It's in the plans. A small sink, a shower and a stool."

"How are you going to plumb the water tank?"

"I thought I'd put in a switch that automatically closed if it lost power and a switch to cut the power if we wanted to shut off the feed from the city water supply."

"How are you going to get water pressure?"

"Install the tank higher than the shelter. It probably won't be much pressure, but it should be enough."

"And you're doing this because you think the world is going to end?"

"It's not if, only when and what."

"You're crazy."

"Does that mean you won't be over when the missiles begin to fly?"

"I'll be here, but it's never going to happen."

"Never say never, partner, you'll be very embarrassed if it happens."

"How are you getting by, the prices have gone up so much recently?"

"You'd be surprised how much nutrition there is in beans and rice. We do most of our shopping at Costco and Sam's Club. Have you seen how much food we have in the garage?"

The Storm – Chapter 2

"No, do you have a lot?"

"Come and look, you decide."

"How many cans of coffee?"

"Only 24, but there's 300 pounds each of pinto beans and jasmine rice. We have 18 of those small canned hams, 24 cans of Spam, 30 cans of chicken, 30 cans of beef and 48 cans of tuna. Plus there are plenty of noodles to make casseroles and even 60 boxes of macaroni and cheese."

"How are you going to equip the shelter?"

"If you mean beds and such, we can move the extra stuff from the garage down there. We have enough for the five of us, but if you come, bring an air mattress or something. There are still a few details to work out, but we have duplicates of almost everything in the kitchen. I plan to store our camping gear in the shelter instead of the shed, so we'll have that too."

"You going to buy a ham radio?"

"Yep the second Tuesday of next week. I have the license but with the prices the way they are, I won't have any ham gear for a long time."

"I've got to get home. Let me know when you need more help."

"Ok, probably when I get the first wall ready to raise."

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I ended up buying one wall at a time, it took a lot of wood when you were spacing everything 12" on center. It also made the walls very heavy, Ron and I couldn't lift it once it was complete. I hammer an anchor into the ground and tied rope at intervals then used a winch with a long arm to raise the first wall. Then we hammered nails into the sill-plate anchoring the first wall in place. We added 2 diagonal support boards to keep it from tipping over and I waited for the next check to buy more lumber.

By the time I had the frame done, it had taken 6 months. The next month, I bought the OSB and finally enclose the place. By this time, I was getting around pretty well, I only had a hammer to drive the nails and my waist was 2" smaller and my arms 1" larger. That stuff may be made out of wood chips and glue, but it's very heavy. In my 'down time' I install the gas tank, and water tank and ran the pipes.

From time to time, we'd get a large check from the trust fund and we really stock up on food, smokes and so forth. When that happened, I could buy something extra for the shelter, like the shower, stool or bathroom vanity. We moved the garage refrigerator and freezer to the shelter before the overhead went on. I also added a used washer and dryer, the small kind. Sharon bought new shelves for the garage and I used the old ones to furnish the storeroom in the shelter.

The final task was to roll on a heavy coat of a tar like substance to seal the shelter from outside water. Once we had that done, all we had to do was move the dirt back into the hole and the shelter was essentially finished. I think I was closed to finished too, to be honest. We used that winch to lower things through the blast door into the shelter and my little cart to move them where they needed to go.

I talked her into putting half of everything we had into the shelter. Things like the extra ammo and so forth went down there immediately. I only kept 25 rounds upstairs for each shotgun and 210 rounds for my M1A. I did get 2 boxes of 71gr FMJ in .32acp for my little gun and kept it with 2 magazines in my storage cabinet. Although we had a schedule that was supposed to tell how much money to expect each month, it wasn't up to date and we got a surprise in October. I'd changed my mind and sent Derek money to buy me a Taurus PT1911 with 3 extra 8 round magazines. He shipped it one piece at a time labeled repair parts.

It took it almost 4 weeks to come in, but when it came, I had everything else and my gun collection was almost complete. I wanted a .22 rifle, preferably a lever action. We found a used 9422 at The Gun Shop. By now, I had 20 bricks of .22 ammo in the shelter. I/we also had a CD V-717 and it was installed, ready to go with the addition batteries.

Since I got the .45 and .22 early, all I got for Christmas was some new jeans, shirts and a pair of new work boots. The boots were Corcoran Men's 10" Black Legendary Leather Side Zip Jump Boots. If she hadn't gotten the zipper kind, I probably never would have gotten them on.

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Meanwhile, the situation in Iraq hadn't improved a bit. Like the Russians, NATO wasn't doing well in Afghanistan. In Congress, the number of people opposed to the war was increasing. Gold had made it over \$900 an ounce and silver was just shy of \$20. Rule of thumb says that the price of gold is about 50 times the price of silver. We didn't have any, either.

The sentiments of the American people pushed Hillary Clinton to the forefront of the Democratic candidates and Ruddy Giuliani was the Republican leader. It was still months before the conventions and Osama Obama was doing his best to get the lead from Hillary and Romney was trying to catch up to Ruddy.

I don't care that Ruddy put John Gotti in prison, he's from New York and I don't trust him not to take the guns away. Romney was the former governor of Massachusetts and their record on firearms isn't any better. Ron Paul wouldn't take away the guns, but he was out of consideration and Tom Tancredo from Colorado was a ways back in the running. I could vote for him or Ron Paul, if they could get on the ticket. Otherwise, I might just not mail my ballot back. From what I'd read on the various forums, many of my compatriots preferred one or both of them. They'd been campaigning for months. We'd see how it would turn out in January and February of 2008, when most of the states were now having their primary elections.

The Dow Jones had tried to keep up with inflation and had moved closer and closer to \$14,000. And, I was on the air, sort of. Ron gave me a CB and I bought a Starduster antenna off E-Bay. There was enough money to let me buy two ham antennas and I went with the MFJ-1798 10-band antenna and a Comet tri-band. I mounted them on a guyed mast and routed the cables into the shelter. I was counting on the next big payment from the trust to allow me to buy the Kenwood radio.

That money came in January and it caused a big fight. We were even on our bills and had about \$2,500 left after we'd done all the grocery shopping. I told Sharon that I wanted the Kenwood TS-2000X. We discussed the matter for some time and I ended up settling for the TS-2000 without the satellite channel (1.2GHz). It was just a card that you added and I could consider it later, she said. It showed up 3 days later from Las Vegas and I spent the day hooking it up to the antenna switches and even listened for a while, noting some channels being used by locals.

The next day the CD V-715 came back from Texas, recalibrated. I put it away and sat down to go through our medical supplies, making a list of things we needed. It wasn't a long list and I got her to take me to Wally World so we'd have the stuff if we needed it. I really wanted more 7.62x51mm ammo, but nobody had any that was affordable. I won't pay a buck a round for surplus ammo, even if it is on stripper clips. We had what we had and that would probably be all there was until the price came down or we got a big pile of money.

With the odds of winning the Lottery as high as they were, we didn't waste our money on tickets. The COLA adjustment on Social Security was lagging way behind inflation, too. Iowa didn't make COLA adjustments on IPERS, they just paid a bonus at the end of January. As far as meds went, I had some extras but only about an 8 month supply on most things and only a one month supply on Plavix. I was ready to switch to aspirin. I'd been cheating on the Zolofit for several months, only taking half a pill a day and saving the rest so maybe I had enough for 8 months if I kept taking the smaller dose.

As far as completing the shelter went, Ron had helped some days shoveling the dirt back in the hole and tamping it a little. I misted it some and that settled it a little more, but we still had a mound over the shelter when we were done. I just hoped the occasional rains we got would help to settle it some more.

The PowerBOSS was located down below and plumbed in to that gas tank. It wasn't full yet, not with gas over \$4 a gallon, but we were getting there at the rate of 10 gallons a week. I guessed we had maybe 400+ gallons of gas, I was on my second bottle of PRI-G. In March, we got extra money from the trust and I talked her into adding an extra 250 gallons. I now had a gallon bottle of PRI-G I'd gotten from that place in Oregon and had to use some of it because our pint bottles were used up.

This year, the Democratic Convention was Monday, August 25, through Thursday, August 28, 2008, in Denver and the Republican National Convention was planned to start just 4 days later, on September 1, in St. Paul. The main news was that the Supreme Court had upheld the Appellate Court in the DC case involving the 2nd Amendment. It was a hot issue for the Democrats. Meanwhile, the state of California had outlawed even more firearms, this time semi-auto handguns. We had 4 semi-autos, 3 of them hand guns, my .45, my .32 and that Sterling .22. The only one there was any record of was the .45 and it was in Derek's name.

We compromised on our computer setup and my desktop and Amy's laptop went into the shelter while Amy's and Sharon's desktops stayed in the house. I got some help and we move my HP 9000 down to the shelter. It weighed in around 375#, not counting paper or the spare toner cartridge. I screwed something up moving it and it cost me a \$250 service call from Hewlett Packard to get it to work. My computer was connected to internet using the Ethernet 5e cable from Staples.

We also moved my old Sanyo TV to the shelter. Piece by piece we were getting closer to being prepared. By now, we had as many supplies in the shelter as we had in the garage when Ron looked last summer. I kept my eye on the news and the worse things got in the Middle East, the more food I moved to the shelter.

In April of 2007, I told Sharon to buy me 6 cartons of Kool's every month. What I didn't tell her was that I only smoke 1 carton a week and kept the extra cartons locked up in my supply cabinet. After the shelter was done, I moved them down there because she never came down but once to look around.

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I screwed up one other thing; the blast hatch wasn't large enough to get the twin mattresses down. We found some 3"x36" cot mattresses and put them on the beds I'd cobbled together out of left over lumber. We got 2 8' folding tables from Staples and 24 folding chairs. It wasn't all that comfortable, but with 10' of earth overhead, we would be well protected in case of a war. Ten feet of earth equals a protection factor of 9 billion.

From what I was hearing, it seemed more and more likely we'd have a terrorist attack using nuclear weapons. However, with the recent buildups by Russia and the Chinese, there was about an even chance they might attack. The WHO never really got a handle on H5N1 and there had twice as many cases during the last year, with the same 60% fatality rate.

Although in early 2007 120 nations agreed on protocols for dealing with global climate change, the Northwest Passage was now open beginning in late spring due to the melt off of the Arctic. Worse, the entire world was getting hammered by high oil prices. Gas in Europe cost about 3 times as much as it did in the US and the Europeans were really complaining. Blair was out and Brown was in, in the UK. The French had a new right winger for President since 2007.

If you sat back and looked at the bigger picture, you could see the storm coming. Like a tsunami, it would come in waves. And like a tsunami, as the waves approached the shore, they'd begin to pile up, making it seem like we were getting hit by several disasters all at once. It wouldn't take much, the economy was already in the toilet and gas was halfway between \$4 and \$5 a gallon, national average. That meant that some states were still just under \$4 a gallon and some were over \$5, like Kalifornia, in places. In early May of the previous year, gas was \$2.50 in Palmdale before Mother's Day.

We'd robbed Peter to pay Paul and short changed him, making minimum payments. Construction wise, I'd over built the shelter to some extent. The advantage of using wood was its natural flexibility, and cost. I'd used treated lumber for the floor although it was sitting on a sheet of plastic and the plastic was attached to the side walls to keep water from getting to the floor. Where I had to go through the plastic with pipes, it was carefully sealed.

Because of Bush's shortsightedness, it appeared to me that the Democratic Party would carry the fall election. The only good Republican candidates didn't appear as if they could bail the water out of the boat fast enough. Much of the nation had become people with their hands out. Like the TV ad said, I'd earned my disability by paying in for 24 plus years. It wasn't much of an insurance policy, but it was what I had.

We needed a dollar stretcher; the money simply didn't go far enough. We cut travel to a minimum, keeping the value in the Rondo and putting our gas money in the tank in the backyard. Amy hated goulash and Sharon didn't care for beans. The grandchildren didn't like anything except Happy Meals. Coke quit making C2 and I couldn't stand Coke Zero. Now, I allowed myself 2 cans of Coke Classic per week. There were several cases in the shelter, all bought on sale. Some things don't seem to go on sale, canned vegetables for example. And, if they do, they limit you to just a few cans.

Working on the shelter had irritated my left shoulder, again. I had a little osteoarthritis in it. That's the kind attributed to wearing out your joints. The only pills available contained something akin to aspirin and I couldn't take those because of the stomach. God, I hate getting old. Alive and feeling good or dead was ok; I was somewhere in the middle. Towards spring, we finally had the tank in the backyard filled.

When the pile of dirt settled as much as it was going to, I got Ron to help me and we repaired the sprinklers, then spread the dirt out, leveling the backyard. We got another large check from the trust and I bought canning jars, extra lids, a pressure canner and a

large supply of heirloom seeds. Ron took me to Lowe's and I got one of those rototillers and tilled the soil for a garden. I planted corn, potatoes, plum tomatoes, bell peppers, green beans, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, lettuce, cabbage and onions but not all the seeds in the packet. I asked her to keep her eye on sales; I wanted to can some beef.

I didn't realize how big a project the garden would be, but having the tiller helped. The dogs weren't happy because we couldn't let them out into the backyard until I put up a fence across the patio. I bought 2 gross of quart jars and one gross of pints. The small jars were for pickles and the large ones were for vegetables. I could do all the canning on the patio using the old gas stove and not heat up the house. When the batches were big enough I used the 30 quart canner and when they weren't I used the 18 quart Presto canner. Sometimes, I used both.

We didn't can any ground beef because I didn't buy any wide mouth jars. However, we canned about 150 quarts of green beans, 52 quarts of beef stew, 52 quarts of beef chunks, Sauerkraut, cabbage, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, and a few pints of creamed style corn. Watching the sales, she added about 48# of bacon, 8 whole cure 81 hams, about a case of whole chickens, 4 pork loins that I cut into chops and some vegetables to the freezer. I refused to touch the pork steak she bought. We moved all the boxed products from the freezer to the freezers on the refrigerators.

Working like I had through the summer, I barely had the time to keep up with the news. I came to depend on Russ Williams' emails to keep me up to date on breaking news and things I should worry about. That was plenty, let me tell you. We planted several potato plants and harvested over a ton of potatoes and maybe 100 pounds of onions. When they were ready to store, I winched them down to the shelter in 100 pound bags.

No way could I pick up 100# so I had to have help, but the storeroom was just about full. The shelter's utility room had the little PowerBOSS, extra oil, gardening tools and anything that I didn't want to risk storing in the shed or the garage. Patti also grew tomatoes every year and we traded her some Roma's for some of the beefsteak. Chris still commuted to Hollywood but he added 2 riders to share gas costs. We got two cords of firewood we stored on the patio and took the gas log out of the fireplace.

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"Want to go to a meeting?"

"I suppose so, it's been a couple of years. How come you don't go more often?"

"I should, but Lyn has me doing too many honey do's and I get tired."

"You want a bag of potatoes?"

"We only use about 10# a week. Can I maybe take 20# at a time?"

"You can do it anyway you want, we started out with 21 bags. We're supplying just about the entire neighborhood."

"Can I ask you something?"

"What?"

"What's with all the preparations, do you really think something is going to happen?"

"I do. In the first place, I think the Democrats will win the House, Senate and White House in November. You can kiss the 2nd Amendment goodbye. I think they'll pull out of Afghanistan, Iraq and Korea. We have about seven hundred bases overseas and I expect they'll shut most of them down. The terrorists will be right behind our troops. If Hillary wins, I'd expect her to cut the military further and if Obama wins he'll go for the guns."

"They aren't getting my guns!"

"You bought most of them from Sandy, right? The feds will look at her 4473s and come looking. I have the same problem, but most of the guns are in the shelter."

"Maybe I should move some of mine if the Democrats win."

"Maybe you should. I don't have a gun safe, so I use trigger locks and those cable locks. Come to the backyard, I need your opinion on something."

"What?"

"You look and you tell me."

"Guessing games? Ok, I'll look but I don't know what I'm looking for."

"You do, you just don't realize it, Ron."

"A flower box?"

"See, you noticed it right away."

"Isn't that where the blast door is?"

"Yes, it covers it. It's made to look heavy, but grab the back side and lift."

"It doesn't weigh much."

"Spring loaded, same as the blast door. It has a lock and if it's locked, it feels like it's too heavy to pick up."

"With that soil leveled off, your backyard looks like it's just a garden."

"I sure hope so. Hey, I'd better give you a pint of pickles to try, I made them myself."

"What kind?"

"Bread and butter. It was Gayle's recipe and man, are they good."

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The shelter was dry, there isn't much water in the ground in the desert and my backyard was no exception. I'd done everything I could think to do to make sure it stayed that way, especially since it was wood construction. I never added up the total cost, but it was relatively inexpensive. Given a choice and the money, I'd have built it with 1' thick reinforced concrete, not wood and OSB. I think the overhead would have supported much more weight than the soil that covered it.

I didn't have long to wait, on November 4, 2008 the blue states won. The US color scheme is counterintuitive, in most countries, blue represents conservatives and red liberals. It wasn't quite a landslide, but it was 59.7% and a landslide is only 60%. As it were, it was a wipeout for the Republican Party.

On November 5th, Ron called and wanted to store some stuff in the shelter. Because the feds probably visit the forums, all of our weapons and ammo had been in the shelter since the previous evening. I told him if there was anything we wanted, we probably had until January 20th to buy it.

"Buy what?"

"Extra magazines, spare parts, and ammo. I'm going to get another 3,000 rounds of 7.62x51mm and double the quantity of other ammo."

"How many magazines do you have?"

"Eleven for the rifle and 7 for my .45 plus 2 for each of the other handguns. I may even buy some repair parts for the magazines, like springs."

"Do you have any suppressors?"

"I wish. But, wish in one hand and spit in the other..."

"They make them here in LA, don't they?"

"Fountain Valley. Thing is, they have a MSRP of about \$1,650 and they're illegal in California."

"What isn't?"

"I'd just love to be able to go to MCLB, Barstow with a large truck and load up everything I wanted."

"For instance?"

"LAW rockets, assorted hand grenades, assorted landmines and some military weapons and ammo."

"What kind of weapons?"

Maybe an M107, an M40, some Mk 211 MP and some M118LR."

"I have no idea what you're talking about."

"A .50 caliber Barrett rifle, a .308 caliber sniper rifle and ammo for each, Raufoss and the special military ball. The scopes used on the rifles are very expensive, \$2,500 each."

"Are they night scopes?"

"No, those run about seven grand."

"What is the effective range of your M1A?"

"A minimum of 500 yards and perhaps as much as 750 yards. I don't really know, but those are the effective ranges of an M14 and an M21."

"What would it take to get those ranges from your rifle?"

"Probably 168 grain Black Hills match ammo and a Leopold 4.5-14x50mm LR/T M1 illuminated Reticule variable scope."

"Anything else?"

"Yes, Derek to shoot the rifle."

"You can't shoot that far?"

"I'm ok with iron sight to 100 yards. I don't like to use scopes. The best night vision would be a Raptor and those cost as much as the rifle. They use 4X on a .308 and the 6X on the 50BMG."

"Where are you going to go to buy ammo?"

"Anywhere I can find it at a good price. Maybe Ammoman for some things and maybe some others for other things."

"Do you have the money?"

"If we limit Christmas and put all the bills off for a month, yes."

"Can I have the magazines shipped to Derek?"

"I'll order them and you can reimburse me. I'm going to order 25 of each."

"I'll get some of the .308 if I find a good price, partner."

We scurried trying to get everything in place before Obama became the new President. I think that everyone who owned a gun must have had the same idea, the most anyone would sell me was 1,000 rounds of each caliber. I bought 3 more cases of 00 buck and 2,000 rounds of 7.62x51mm. Ron bought 5.56x45mm and 1,000 rounds of Black Hills for my rifle. I told the kids that they'd better get their guns now; Obama was bound and determined to take them away.

Derek had a model 92FS Beretta, the same handgun he used in the service and Mary had a 9mm CZ 75B SA. She had that .30-30 and he bought a used Bushmaster A3 with the 20" barrel and had a box of used magazines he'd rebuilt. When I asked about ammo, he hemmed and hawed and said he had plenty. He refused to be more specific. I asked him if he could get me any .50 caliber Raufoss and he was quick to say no. Neither could he get: mines, grenades, antitank rockets or suppressors. I don't know why, but for once I didn't believe him.

I called Damon to see if he had gotten the shotgun and he said no, but he had the money. I asked the last time he'd been in the Looney bin and he said 6 years. I strongly suggested he pick up the shotgun he wanted. If his background check failed, send Derek the money and have him buy it.

Last year when the tornado hit Greensburg, Kansas, someone asked on one of the boards whether they should rebuild the town. Specifically, "Since the town is 95% destroyed, should they rebuild or write it off and disburse the people to other small towns around the area?" (It's disperse, not disburse!!!)

I must be getting senile, the question really pissed me off. It's nobody's business, except theirs, if they rebuild or not. On May 15, 1968, Charles City, Iowa was hit by an F-5 tornado that killed many and injured more. It only wiped out about 1 square mile. The hit barely got national attention. Charles City rebuilt and the government didn't pay for it. They may have made a few low interest loans, I don't remember. I do know that FEMA didn't come into existence for another 10 years. Living in Palmdale on the San Andreas, made me think. I have homeowners insurance and Earthquake insurance.

The Storm – Chapter 3

There is a large deductible so, if an earthquake wiped out our house, I'd take a low interest loan to cover the deductible, but nothing else. We don't need the government to bail us out, though a little help would be nice. This is a republic, not a democracy. Communism is a form of democracy, for crying out loud – think about it. Communism is an ideology that seeks to establish a classless, stateless social organization based on common ownership of the means of production. It can be considered a branch of the broader socialist movement. We call it the New Left in the US.

Maybe we'd get lucky and our new shelter won't collapse, but I wouldn't count on it. Ron and I were about as prepared as a person could be in the circumstances. He kept one gun at home and put the remainder in the shelter. I kept out the Nazi .32 and did the same with the remainder of our firearms. Actually, after spreading out the remaining dirt, the shelter was covered with about 11' of dirt; make that PF 16,777,216. They'd have to have good ground penetrating radar to find it. The city didn't know about, we hadn't pulled a permit.

What happened next was just about what you'd expect to happen. Obama gave a speech similar to Michael's Douglas's speech in *The American President* and said he was going to get the guns. As Commander in Chief, he gave the Pentagon 60 days to get our troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan. The Joint Chiefs must have been expecting it, they had ships pre-positioned to haul our equipment back home. It would take anywhere from 6 to 10 years to restore the broken equipment they were bringing back.

Al Qaeda didn't wait for us to repair our equipment; I now believe they followed us home. There are a lot of Muslims in the US. In fact, their number is only exceeded by the number of Mexicans. I personally have nothing against Muslims and Mexicans, everyone should own a few. Last year when the LAPD tried to disperse the protesters, they used rubber bullets. I'd have issued real bullets. William J. 'Bill' Bratton is currently the 54th Chief of the LAPD, and was formerly Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, the only man to hold both positions.

I think they should have fired him and rehired Daryl Gates. Gates is considered the father of SWAT, which established specialized units dealing with hostage rescue and extreme situations involving armed and dangerous suspects. Ordinary line officers, with light armament, limited weapons training, and no instruction on group fighting techniques, had been shown to be ineffective in combating snipers, bank robberies by heavily armed persons, and other high-intensity situations. In 1965, Officer John Nelson came up with the idea to form a specially trained and equipped unit, intended to respond to and manage critical situations while minimizing police casualties. As an inspector, Gates approved this idea, and he formed a small select group of volunteer officers. The first SWAT team, which Gates had originally wanted to name "Special Weapons Attack Team," was born LAPD SWAT, D-Platoon of the Metro Division. This first SWAT unit was initially constituted as 15 teams of four men each, for a total staff of 60. These officers were given special status and benefits, but in return had to attend

monthly training and serve as security for police facilities during episodes of civil unrest. SWAT was copied almost immediately by most US police departments, and is now used by law enforcement agencies throughout the world.

Like his mentor Parker, Gates made every attempt to shield the force from political influences – for good and for ill. He publicly disdained community policing, usually electing not to work with community activists and prominent persons in communities in which LAPD was conducting major anti-gang operations. Coincidentally, at the time of the Rodney King beating, Gates was at a community policing conference. This tendency, a logical extension of the policies implemented by Parker that discouraged LAPD officers from becoming too enmeshed in the communities in which they served, did not serve him well politically: allegations of arrogance and racism plagued the department throughout his tenure, surfacing most strongly in the Christopher Commission report that marked the end of his career. Warren Christopher was Bill Clinton's 1st Secretary of State.

◦

There is no accurate count of the number of Muslims in the United States, as the US Census Bureau does not collect data on religious identification. There is an on-going debate as to the true size of the Muslim population in the US. Various institutions and organizations have given widely varying estimates about how many Muslims live in the US. The following are a few recent studies:

- 1.1 million (2001) City University of New York - American Religious Identification Survey [0.4% of national population]
- 1.6 million (2000) Glenmary Research Center [0.5% of national population]
- 1.9 million (2001) American Jewish Committee [0.6% of national population]
- 2.0 million (2000) Hartford Institute for Religious Research [0.7% of national population]
- 4.7 million (2005) Encyclopaedia Britannica Book of the Year [1.5% of national population]
- 6.7 million (1997) J. Ilyas Ba-Yunus [2.2% of national population]
- 2.98 million (2002) [1% of population] CIA World Factbook

I'll make it easy, there are TOO MANY!!! You know where the first Mosque was built in the US? Cedar Rapids, Iowa!!! Is my red neck showing?

◦

Ron and I started to take in more meetings and eventually we ran into Clarence. He didn't call or write and we lost track of him. His health had been poor lately, but we were all in our mid-sixties, so that was to be expected. Ron had been experiencing clogged blood vessels for 2 years and his doctor wasn't anxious to clean them out again. My doctor kept telling me to see a cardiologist and I ignored him. We were going to live until we died and nobody could change that.

Despite attempts to block it, that piece of legislation, HR 1022, was re-introduced and this time passed first the House and with minor modifications, the Senate. It took a Committee less than a week to work out the differences and the new bill passed both the House and Senate. The President signed it the moment it was placed on his desk. I didn't have one single firearm that was still legal. Being a Patron member of you know who, I figured, in for a penny, in for a pound. When some extra money showed up, I bought a Browning Hi-Power and a Surefire suppressor for my M1A rifle.

In April, the trust distributed a capital gain and we were flowing in money. I saw my chance and called Derek. He agreed to buy me a Tac-50 if I sent the money. I then pushed the point and asked him to get me some ammo. He said he'd see and then I told him I wanted Mk 211 MP ammo for the rifle. He must have thought I was kidding, because he asked, "How much?" I replied, "4,000 rounds, the barrel life."

He called in late May and said he'd have to drive out to bring the rifle and a few other things. I asked about the Raufoss, and he played dumb. He said they'd be here by the 15th and it was up to us to pay for the motel room, he was short on money.

"Hey kid, good to see you."

"Hi Dad, I have a few things for you."

"Yeah right, LAWs, M61s and M67s plus the 4,000 rounds of Raufoss."

"How did you know?"

"You're kidding, right?"

"Do you remember my friend at Rock Island Arsenal?"

"Vaguely, you wrote about him in that story we both worked on, Whetstone. I thought he was a make believe person."

"He's a real person. I gave him the money you sent me and the list of things you've always said you wanted. Where do you want it? I want to get it out of the truck, quick."

"In my shelter."

"Do you have a 2 wheeler?"

"I have a 4 wheel cart, but it's in the shelter. Come on and help me get it."

"You really built a shelter?"

"Yep, 2x6 sidewalls and 2x12 overhead, with everything 12" on center. What do you think of the gun ban?"

"It's unconstitutional, but the Supreme Court will probably uphold it."

"Ron and I both think so too."

I lifted the flower bed and opened the blast hatch. We used the winch to lift the 4 wheeler. He must have been thinking along the same lines as I was, he had 5 crates of LAWS (75 rockets), 90 of the M61s, 120 of the M67s and 4,000 rounds of Mk 211 MP. He also had 4 M-16A3 rifles and they were brand new in the box, with M-203s. Next he unloaded several cases of M855 (SS-109) and an equal number of the M193 ball, plus M118LR and 40mm grenades to shoot from the M203s.

He bought me a Tac-50 complete with AN/PVS-27 Magnum Universal Night Sight in front of the Nightforce NXS 12-42x56mm scope. I was about to complain that I didn't have a scope or night sight for my M1A when he handed me a second MUNS. He also had a couple of cases of M118LR, the 175 grain long range military .30 caliber ammo. My barrel had 1 turn in 11 and you really needed 1 turn in 10 to use it. I didn't say anything; I figured he already knew that.

The following day, Ron showed up and had a familiar looking box. The box had Springfield Armory on the outside and a Super Match on the inside.

"How did you afford that? Do you know how much they sell for?"

"I do, but don't tell Linda. Sandy sold it to me for cost. It has a Leopold 4.5-14x50mm LR/T M1 Illuminated Reticule variable scope and all I need is a sling and some of the 175 grain Black Hills Match ammo."

"No you don't."

"Yes, I do, it has one turn in ten."

"I know, but I have 2 cases of M118LR military ammo."

"What's that?"

"175 grain long range ammo for the sniper rifles."

"No chit?"

"Come to the shelter, Derek is putting some stuff away."

"What kind of stuff?"

"Wait and see. I'll buy you a sling if you'll take me to Santa Fe Gun Galleria. How much did that scope cost?"

"Twelve hundred plus tax. Why?"

"I need one."

o

Have you ever watch a storm form? They usually blow in from the west, arriving at the prevailing wind speed. It depends on whether its center is relative to where you are. Storms are created when a center of low pressure develops, with a system of high pressure surrounding it. This combination of opposing forces can create winds and result in the formation of storm clouds, such as the cumulonimbus. Small, localized areas of low pressure can form from hot air rising off hot ground, resulting in smaller disturbances such as dust devils and whirlwinds. A tornado is a violently rotating column of air which is in contact with both a cumulonimbus (or, in rare cases, cumulus) cloud base and the surface of the earth. Tornadoes can come in many sizes, but are typically in the form of a visible condensation funnel, with the narrow end touching the earth. Often, a cloud of debris encircles the lower portion of the funnel. The tornado that hit Charles City was a multiple vortex tornado, a type of tornado in which two or more columns of spinning air rotate around a common center. Multivortex structure can occur in almost any circulation, however it is very often observed in intense tornadoes.

The Charles City tornado was part of the Mississippi Valley outbreak of May 15-16, 1968 which included: 20 significant, 4 violent (including two F5's) and, 8 killer tornadoes. There are more kinds of storms than thunderstorms, like earthquake storms. I suspect that if the volcanoes in the Cascade Range began erupting, one after the other, someone might call that a volcano storm.

o

"Do you have the money to buy one?"

"Nope, spent it on the surprise in the shelter. Can you loan me \$1,200 plus tax?"

"Maybe, what's in it for me?"

"You'll see."

"Wow, I'll buy the scope for you and you buy the rings."

"I'll need more than rings, but I'll handle it."

"What else?"

"I need an A.R.M.S #18 mount to mount the rings on. Then I'll need the rings for the scope."

The government didn't wait very long after July 1, 2009 to begin to implement the gun grab. They had the 4473s and had sorted them into neighborhoods. Obviously, I wasn't the only person in Moon Shadows who had some guns; I was the fifth house they hit.

"You purchased a Browning Hi-Power, 3 Mossberg 590A1s and one M1A loaded model. Is that correct?"

"Yep."

"We need to see them."

"Yeah, right, so you can grab them. I don't have them; I sold them in a private sale after the new law passed. Got my money back and then some."

"Any paperwork?"

"Nope, but I can tell you his name, John Doe."

"We're going to search and God help you if you're lying."

"Be my guest, you won't find anything, I sold them."

"Why didn't you go through a gun dealer?"

"Because the guy paid a premium so I wouldn't."

"What is it with you people? This is the fifth house we searched and we haven't found a single firearm."

"We all sold them."

"Yes, I know to John Doe. Funny thing is so did your neighbors. We figured you people buried them and ran ground penetrating radar over everyone's yard, but we haven't had a single hit."

"Help yourself, but be careful of my plants, I just put that garden in."

"What is this flower box for?"

"Flowers. The wife likes Marigolds. Marigolds are relatively pest free and many people interplant them in their vegetable gardens to deter insect pests. While the data is lacking as to whether marigolds actually deter insect pests, they definitely attract beneficial in-

sects such as lacewings, ladybeetles, and parasitic wasps. A vegetable garden with some planted flowers is also more attractive and this makes it more enjoyable to work in."

"We'll just go up and down the rows."

The depth range of GPR is limited by the electrical conductivity of the ground, and the transmitting frequency. Higher frequencies do not penetrate as far as lower frequencies, but give better resolution. Optimal depth penetration is achieved in dry sandy soils or massive dry materials such as granite, limestone, and concrete where the depth of penetration is up to 15 m. In moist and/or clay laden soils and soils with high electrical conductivity, penetration is sometimes only a few centimeters.

"Nothing. Not that I believe you, but there is nothing in your yard."

Damn, it worked. I put in a foot of clay soil about 6' down and covered it top and bottom with galvanized screening. If Wiki was right, that would short circuit the radar and they wouldn't discover the shelter. It must have worked, I'm not wearing handcuffs. I had gone door to door during March and warned everyone about the new law and how the feds would probably use ground penetrating radar to look for buried firearms. Most of them put their guns in my shelter. Some claimed they got rid of them somewhere. I told everyone with guns in the shelter to tell the government that they sold them to John Doe. Plus the sprinklers automatically watered my backyard not long before they came.

Sandy Storm had a fire sale of sorts, unloading all of her ammo and every firearm in the store. Ron and I cleaned her out of 12 gauge, .357, 9mm and .45ACP. I looked at the Super Match but couldn't afford it. Asshole went back after dropping me off and bought it. Not that it mattered; it was locked up in my shelter.

She sold everything at cost, but you had to fill out the 4473. In the waning days, she tended to overlook the 15 day waiting period. It was ok, though; they only sold to regular customers and had run background checks on them before. When the feds showed up to grab her guns, all she had left was the legal stuff, like gun oil. As far as I could tell, I was the only NRA Life member in the housing tract. Ron bought 5 year memberships, but he didn't live here.

"So, where did you hide your .32?"

"In my wheelchair. Where did you hide yours?"

"In my waist band."

"I'm surprised they didn't search you."

"Tango offered to tear the guy a new hind end."

"Still..."

"I was surprised too. Anyway, did they use radar on the backyard?"

"Sure did. They said that the ground must have clay in it, the radar only went down about 6'."

"The screen and clay worked?"

"Yeah, better than I thought it might. I was prepared to go to jail if I had to, riding in my wheelchair, of course. We're outlaws now."

"When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns?"

"Call me Black Bart."

"Ok, butthead, whatever you say."

Fleataxi was working on a new story that included a rail gun. He called Damon to get some model rocket information. If I understood what Damon said, the range of the gun would be over 3,000 miles... I asked him what he'd done about the new law and he told me about the break-in and how they'd cleaned him out. I asked if he would be able to get more guns now and he said no, that was far beyond his means and the guns weren't insured. Even if the Sheriff found them, he'd (the Sheriff) would have to turn them over to the feds.

He asked about mine and I told him I'd managed to get them sold at a premium and I guessed we'd have to get crossbows or something they hadn't outlawed yet. (It beat the lame excuse that they'd fallen off his boat, but it was still a false police report. We were talking using pre-arranged codes, similar in theory to the Navajo code talkers.) I asked if he knew that soil with a high clay content that was full of moisture interfered with GPR. He asked what our plans were and I told him we'd probably go to plan B.

According to the TV, the military had complied with the C in C, and all troops were now home from Afghanistan, Iraq plus Kosovo and South Korea for good measure. Our only foreign military presence was in Germany and Japan and as soon as the Japanese Self Defense Force completed development on their project, those troops would be home too.

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During WW II, three countries had atomic weapons programs, the US, Germany and Japan. The only two nations who tested nuclear weapons were the US and the Japanese. However, after we nuked them, Japan dropped all research. Japan holds a few tons (4?) of plutonium and they have some of the finest engineering minds in the world. In Japan, as of 2005, 55 nuclear reactors account for 30% of its electricity generated.

80% of its energy is being imported in the form of fossil fuels. Since 1973 nuclear energy has been a national strategic priority. (Six fewer reactors now.)

Under Article 9 of the constitution the "Japanese people renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation". To this end the article provides that "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained". In August 2005, the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi proposed an amendment to the constitution in order to increase Japan's Defense Forces' roles in international affairs. First paragraph of Article 9, renouncing war, is retained. The second paragraph, forbidding the maintenance of "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential" is replaced by an Article 9-2 which permits a "defense force", under control of the Prime Minister, which defends the nation and may participate in international activities. This new section gun, (army or military), which has been avoided under the current constitution. Also, addition in Article 76 of military courts. Members of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces are currently tried as civilians by civilian courts.

The stated reason had to do with threat posed by North Korea and China. Ask yourself, would you rather Iran had nuclear weapons or Japan? The new Foreign Minister also supports this proposal. In 1-2 years, they could design and build more nuclear weapons than Israel has, if they chose to do so.

There have been claims that products made in this town and exported to the US in the 1960s carried the label "MADE IN USA, JAPAN", for it to have an appearance that the product is "Made in USA". It is, however a myth that Japan renamed the town "Usa" following WW II so that goods exported from Japan could be labeled as such. The claim is false: The town had this name long before the war, at least from 8th century, and is not where the majority of Japanese industry located. Still... The TV didn't say what the project was that kept our forces there.

Meanwhile, most foreign countries had divested their dollars, opting instead for Euros. You should remember that Obama is a lawyer, not an economist. The only economist who was President was Gerald Ford.

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The government only seized a portion of the hundreds of million firearms in the country. In Palmdale, Ron pitched in during the summer of 2009 and helped me with the garden. He ran the rototiller and I hoed the rows. When he was finished, he helped me hoe. He had more money than I had so he ordered a gross of regular quarts and a gross of wide mouth quarts, plus more lids. He and I experimented with dill pickles and they weren't half bad. He took a portion of his share home and left the rest in the shelter. In the past, he mowed his own lawn, but this year, he hired a gardener.

This year, we continued to watch the sales and canned beef stew, beef chunks and ground beef patties using wide mouth jars. Sometime after Independence Day, the feds showed up again and used a different kind of ground penetrating radar, with the same

results. I told them I was tired of being harassed but they ignored me. When I told the boys I'd been hassled by the feds, they just laughed.

In the Middle East, the Civil War in Iraq was heating up. Israel accused Syria of a cross border incursion and Iran still refused to allow UN inspectors in despite the sanctions that had been imposed. I figured it was just a matter of time before the Middle East exploded and for once, Ron agreed with me. He said he didn't really want to garden, but with the spiraling inflation, he didn't see that he had much choice. Gas was over \$5.50 a gallon. That affected the prices of all store bought goods. Patti, Linda and Sharon now went shopping together and only bought things from the new Eastside Costco and Sam's Club on 10th Street West.

Aside: Ask yourself, if the election was on November 4, 2008, why did the campaigns start in early 2007? Apparently, John McCain said something nice about Intelligent Design. I'd have to agree, I don't think God is stupid and I'm sure He had a plan. It's obvious; they laid it out in the Bible. He divided the work into 6 days instead of doing it all at once. He had the power, but He wisely chose to divide His labors.

Although we were harvesting seeds from the garden, I didn't take a chance and ordered more of the seed packages from The Ark Institute. For a change, I planted some Pascal celery. We could add the chopped stalks to canned or frozen stew and collect the seeds to flavor the potato salad. It's supposed to be popular in Holistic medicine, but I'm not into that.

"This is one hell of a way to earn a living, partner."

"True, but we both like to eat. Do you think the feds will be back?"

"Were any of them named Arnold?"

"I didn't ask. Are you sure that clay and screening worked as advertised?"

"Must have, the guy operating the unit said I must have a layer of clay or moist soil about 6' deep. I didn't know about the moisture or I'd have added water lines to moisten the soil."

"Hey you guys come into the house and listen to this report on TV."

I figure Montel Williams probably had a wart on his butt, Sharon and I get excited over different things. It wasn't planes crashing into the WTC, but it was the next best thing, terrorists detonated a ~10kt atomic bomb in Atlanta. I figured they didn't like CNN. I don't either, so if that was their reason, I can't fault them. Unfortunately, Wolf isn't based in Atlanta. Reporters are only good for one thing, target practice. Ron and I sat down to watch TV and Shep Smith was just explaining, when, poof, the channel went blank.

The Storm – Chapter 4

"There goes New York. Let's try a local channel."

"2, 4 or 7?"

"Try 7."

"Alright, it's Marc Brown, he's pretty good."

He just opened his mouth to speak when the TV cut out. We heard a far off boom and assumed LA got hit too.

"Chit."

"I'll double that."

"What are you going to do?"

"Pray. We might not get much of a crop out of our garden."

"What about fallout?"

"Hang on."

I looked at my weather vane and the wind was out of the northwest. I went back inside and told Ron we probably had plenty of time, but it was a good day for a picnic in our backyard (patio). He went to assemble his mob and I opened the entrance to the shelter. I went down and got the CD V-715 and added the battery.

"How about I contact the neighbors and suggest we have a backyard picnic, Sharon? Maybe Amy can move some of the food from the garage to the shelter, just in case."

"What about fallout?"

"The wind is out of the northwest, we should be ok for the moment. I got the Survey Meter out of the shelter and we can monitor it. I fired up the generator and pulled the main fuse, so you have power to the appliances. Be careful, you only have 60 amps available. I turned off the air conditioning."

"I thought it was beginning to get hot."

"Don't blame me, you didn't want a standby generator, remember?"

The forecast was for a high of 110° with an overnight low in the 70s. We could either run the air conditioner or everything else and I didn't put it up for a vote. If they wanted to

cool off, the shelter was in the high 50s/low 60s. I heard Chris fire up his portable generator and then Dick and Dave started the generators in their trailer/motorhomes. I let Dave and Dick get the folding tables out of the shelter, it was a real chore making the turn to the blast door. I noticed Lance was wearing his .357 magnum in a belt holster. When Ron and family showed up, he was wearing a .357 too. I did notice that the guns made Chris nervous. The phones were out so I couldn't call Damon and Derek. I hoped Damon was smart enough to head to his brother's. I put on my portable radio so we could listen to KTPI.

This just in... a fourth bomb was detonated in the nation's capital. We are getting reports of a possible 5th bomb in the Bay area and one in Chicago, but those are unconfirmed. We were notified that the President will have a message on the EAS, shortly, please stay tuned. Early reports claim the LA bomb was detonated in the San Fernando Valley, not downtown. Edison says it will take hours to divert power from the Tehachapi wind turbines to the Antelope Valley and Bakersfield. Presently, the water system is up and we still have natural gas. No one has claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks.

"Maybe I should switch my generator over to natural gas," Lance suggested.

"How long does that take?"

"Just a few minutes, I have both plumbed to it. However, I have the propane as the primary fuel because I expected an earthquake."

"Go ahead, you'd better save the propane, it's going to be hard to get," Ron suggested. "I'll have to go home later to add fuel to my portable generator."

"How big is your tank?"

"6 gallons."

"Gas or diesel?"

"Gas."

"Do you have any spare cans?"

"Two."

"I have 7 if you need more."

"Stabilized?"

"Yes, PRI-G."

"I use Stabil."

"Don't blame me. I told you where to buy PRI-G."

The funny thing was that Ron had paid for 5 of my 7 5-gallon cans. He got a new computer and he paid for 5 cans for me setting up his computer. He even took me there to buy them. I paid an awful price for the first 2 cans, \$20 each. I got the first 2 pints of PRI-G from West Marine. The remainder came from Oregon.

I had the CD V-715 set on the lowest setting and it never clicked. Just before sundown, we talked it over and it was decided that since I had the meter, I'd get to stay up and wait for it to begin clicking. Lucky me, I knew there was a reason why I shouldn't have purchased the meter. Ron said he would: check with Clarence and set up a CB by his bed. I could call him if it started to click. People went down to the shelter and retrieved their weapons. When Lance came up he gave me a very strange look.

"Something wrong?"

"I recognized the crates."

"Good, you can teach us how to use them if the need arises."

"Where did you get that stuff? None of it is legal, even before the new law passed."

"Did you look in the hard shelled case?"

"No, what's in it?"

"A Tac-50."

"What's that?"

"A .50 caliber sniper rifle. Do you know what that is?"

"Is it a semi-auto .50 caliber rifle?"

"Nope, bolt action. I have HEIAP to shoot in it."

"They're heavy, aren't they? You don't look strong enough to carry it."

"I'm not. I always wanted one just because they're illegal in Kalifornia. It was nice of the state to make up a list of weapons a person wants in his survival armory."

"You want me to spell you around midnight?"

"I'll bring the survey meter over, thank you."

"I'll get some sleep and be up when you get there."

I kept the radio on while I was watching the CV-715, but they couldn't confirm either San Francisco or Chicago. Figuring we were about 50 miles from the Valley, the radiation should have hit by 10pm at the latest. I took the survey meter to Lance at 11:55 and it was still not reading any increase. The weather station still indicated the wind was out of the northwest. I quickly brought him up to date and said just knock, the dogs would wake us up, if there were any change. I slept in like I usually do.

My routine sleeping hours are 1am to 11am, like a baby who has his days and nights mixed up. Sharon woke me early and suggested I get a shower, the ladies wanted to make one more trip to the stores before the situation changed. Normally, I get up at 11, spend an hour waking up and then do whatever I need to do. I figured a hot shower ought to wake me up. I quickly showered, dressed for a change and got my rifle out of the shelter. Then I went across the street to check in with Lance.

"Any change?"

"No radiation yet, but they confirmed the attacks on the Bay Area and Chicago. The President moved to Cheyenne Mountain and issued a statement around 4am. The indication is it was terrorists and they mention al Qaeda, but no one has claimed credit. He declared martial law until the matter is sorted out, probably 96 hours. The radio station said power would be restored sometime today. The local armory has been activated and National Guard personnel at assisting evacuees from LA. One other thing, the LA area airports are closed and relief flights are coming through the Palmdale Regional Airport. LA County Fire Department is monitoring the radiation level and they gave instructions about sheltering in place."

"Thanks. Let me know when the power comes on, I don't have a transfer switch."

"How are you set up?"

"My portable generator is in the shelter connected to a large fuel tank. If I need to power the house, it's wired in and I just pull the main breaker."

"It's supposed to get up as high as 115° today. Did I understand you don't have air conditioning?"

"We can't run it and supply power to everything else, but we had 3 or 4 fans. We'll just have to sweat it out."

"We have air, so if anyone gets too warm, send them over here."

"Thank Lance, I'll tell Sharon. We can always go down to the shelter; it's really cool down there."

I went back home and when down to the shelter. I called Ron on the CB to get a sitrep. He said His generator ran out of gas during the night but they didn't have a problem. He'd be by later to get more gas. Chris' radios were fully charged and I swapped the batteries to charge the second set. Time Warner restored service just before noon and reported that power had been restored. I shut down the generator and used my gas cans to top off the tank. I expected the women would be back shortly and either Amy or Ron could run me to the stations to refill the cans.

Around 1pm, Ron showed up and returned my gas cans. Gas had jumped \$1 a gallon and it cost \$30 a can to refill them. I added PRI-G and set them out by the shed, near the gas fill line. I had 4 empty cans and it would mean about \$120 to refill those. I noticed he had switched from the .357 to a 9mm pistol and asked why.

"Why? Well these are 15 round magazines. My chest harness and rifle are in the car, loaded. I mounted one of the CBs in the car and bought another one to install in your SUV."

"Ok, can we get that done by the time they get back from the store?"

"It depends on when they get back. I brought a Wilson antenna with a mag mount for the top and all I have to do is mount the radio and connect to the power."

"If you want to get started, I'll take Chris' radios back except for the one I'll keep. Do you have any more CBs?"

"I have a total of six, one for the house and one for my car plus one for your shelter and one for your car. The extras are in the trunk, why?"

"We probably should give one to Lance and the other to Dave. Chris will probably give one radio to Dick and keep the other."

"I only have one extra antenna."

"Plan B, Dick has my Radio Shack CB antenna, He'll have to mount that and use the other CB. Dave can use Chris's other radio."

"I assume we still have no fallout?"

"No, but the radio and TV both said the wind direction would slowly change, so we could still get some. That air mass is moving southeast."

I wasn't sure how much money was left in the checking account and would have to let Sharon get home to find out. Ron had the radio installed before they got home. They stopped at Patti's and unloaded her stuff and then came home and unloaded our stuff. She bought 4 bundles of Charmin, 12 cans of coffee, 50 pounds each kind of bean a bag of rice. She also had 2 bottles of chili powder, 2 8# bags of macaroni and 3 cases

of vegetables. I told her we need gas to top off the tank and asked if there was enough money in the checking account. She said no, she'd about exhausted the account buying extra supplies. They had filled Amy's tank and there was just enough to top off her tank.

Just when I was beginning to believe we'd dodged the bullet, the CD V-715 started to rise. It wasn't much, just enough to warn everyone to standby. If it went much higher, we'd have to use the shelter for a few days at least. Meanwhile, CNG troops were setting up tent cities in the High School Stadiums and Clear Channel Stadium in the AV. People from southern LA County and Orange County were headed south, while people from the west valley, ergo Thousand Oaks, etc. were headed west. We were getting people from the eastern Santa Clarita area and those from the western area were moving up I-5 towards Gorman and Bakersfield.

As might be expected, looting was rampant in South Central and East LA. The LAPD only had ~9,000 officers to cover 473mi². The LACSD had ~8,400 Deputies to cover 3,171mi², divided up among 25 substations. It had to be a nightmare for Law Enforcement and the Governor had quickly activated the CNG, dividing them between the Bay Area and LA Area. The greater San Bernardino area had their problems, too because they'd be getting fallout from the ground level detonation.

Lance contracted people he knew with the Sheriff's Department and suggested that our housing tract could provide its own security, provided the Department could either provide a Deputy or swear him in as a temporary Deputy. They were hard pressed and sent by a patrol car to swear him in as a temporary Reserve Deputy with power to recruit qualified residents to aid him in his duties. He quickly passed out badges and swore in residents who had firearms stored, you know where, just to make it at least semi-legal for us to be armed.

As the wind changed direction, we began to receive a small amount of fallout and residents were advised how to shelter in place by the CNG and California State Military Reserve. The CSMR (California State Military Reserve) is authorized as a state defense force under the provisions of the Title 32, United States Code, § 109 and the California State Military Reserve Act. The force is made up by volunteers who possess a variety of skills, and many members are veterans of other branches of the US Military headquartered in Sacramento, CA. All citizens who are not felons and possess a high school diploma are eligible though military veterans and those with special skills are preferred. The enabling legislation for the California State Military Reserve provides for a naval branch. The California Naval Militia was reactivated in 1976 by the Governor of California. Unlike New York and the few other states with ship-borne active naval militia units, the California Naval Militia is a small unit of military lawyers and strategists who provide advice and legal expertise in the field of military and naval matters for the benefit of California's state defense force.

With the power restored, we had phones and I got a call from Fleataxi inquiring on our condition. I brought him up to date and explained that we were getting a very small amount of fallout because the wind had changed. However, we were fortunate because

49 hours had passed between the explosion and the wind change and under the 7/10 rule it appeared that our level might not exceed a few Rads. I know the term is dated, but if you don't like it, convert it to the new term, my equipment is old and all says Rads.

He offered to come down to help out, but I suggested that he didn't want to get caught up in the mess and could do more good by staying where he was and keeping us updated on what was going on around the country. Our main media outlet, LA, was down for the count. I also explained that some of us had very temporary credentials from the Sheriff's Department that allowed us to protect the housing tract. The only problems was we might have to shelter for a few days, leaving us dependent on the Sheriff and the military.

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A person can spend half his life imaging what it might be like when TSHTF, but until it actually happens, you never really know. With so few cities attacked, his highness was able to shift active and reserve forces to aid. However, we all saw what happened in New Orleans and that wasn't really reassuring. The bottom line was we were our first line of defense against fallout, bad guys and the natural shortages that would occur. In a country already enduring a gas shortage and rampant inflation, it could only get worse, not better.

As close as I'd ever come to something like this was back in '68 when I went home to help out after the tornado. Back then, I was 25 years old and in good health and reasonable condition. However, that was over 40 years ago and times change. Back then, I walked a guard tour on my Dad's property with my model 12 loaded with 00 Buck. Now I had several firearms to choose from but wasn't nearly as fit or mobile. The tornado hit town a week to the day after Joyce and I were married, a very long time ago.

Was George W. the Antichrist, was Obama, or was it an as yet unnamed person? It had been FDR, for a while, then give 'em hell Harry. Ronnie Ray-gun space wars and George Sr. with his New World Order talk scared many. If I had to pick, I'd pick Osama Obama, he'll con the whole world into believing whatever he's doing is good for them. I sometimes wonder if he and Pelosi have something going... Cheney shot a friend while hunting and Dubya just loved to shoot himself in his own foot!

"What's the word?"

"50mR and rising, partner. I'm thinking we'd better consider buttoning up for a few days. My family already started with the KIO₃."

"What about all those people in the tent cities?"

"Not my problem. They made Lance a Reserve Deputy and he deputized a few of us. Now that the Sheriff's Department has a vested interest, maybe they'll keep an eye on the tract."

"How many people are there in the stadiums?"

"I haven't heard why?"

"Do you really think they won't breakout and spread out all over Palmdale? Sooner or later someone is going to realize that we're getting fallout and they'll panic. Have you thought that far ahead?"

"Yes. It will depend on how high the fallout gets. If it stays low, we can come out of the shelter for a few hours a day. I have 5 dosimeters so we can monitor exposure levels. We can take turns, if necessary, keeping people out. By the way, if the phones stay up, Fleataxi will keep us informed about what's happening outside the areas they attacked. Where's Clarence?"

"They took off for parts east. He said they were going to bug out rather than put up with the BS."

"Smart. What about their house?"

"He asked me to keep an eye on it if I could. I told him I'd try. If we get much fallout, it won't be on my A list."

"I think we may be ok on the garden. We can wash off the plants and I doubt they'll absorb much radiation."

"I hope not, food is going to be tight. I think I'll go home and get the family. Radiation still going up?"

"Unfortunately."

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Obama hadn't been able to federalize the National Guards of California, Illinois, New York or Georgia. However that darned John Warner Act allowed him to federalize the rest and he suspend Posse Comitatus for the duration plus. In an unprecedented move, the Governor suspended the California firearms laws and people began dragging long forgotten firearms out of closets, from caches and from who knows where. We who live here were so accustomed to gang problems we hadn't realized how bad it was in the large cities.

The steady stream of trucks supplying the local Vons, Albertsons and Stater Bros. stopped rolling and the population of the AV, having suddenly grown from ½ million to close to 2 million was up to its collective hind end in alligators. Trains rolled in delivering supplies to distribution points, but the fuel shortage made distribution difficult. We spent

6 hours out and 18 hours in the shelter. We had 3 people on the gate and they weren't carrying BB guns.

The school bus usually parked near the entrance of the tract was still there, but cross-ways, blocking the street. We carefully washed the garden plants eliminating the fallout as it accumulated. The ladies took over canning the produce as it was harvested and everyone shared what they had. The usual approach was an afternoon meal shared by all. I usually got stuck making the macaroni salad, one huge bowl full at a time.

The problem wasn't macaroni, we had plenty, it was the sliced black olives and pimento. The recipe called one can each of those, celery, green onion, green pepper, grated cheese and the elbows, plus mayo. On the days I made it, it was only one large stainless steel bowl, 10" deep and 18" across. We alternated that with potato salad plus whatever the others contributed. We generally used two gas grills and the oven in the patio stove to keep the house cooler. I have no idea how it came to be that we did this on our back patio, probably because the shelter was close by.

The badges actually said Reserve Deputy and they must have been the edge that kept people from trying to take us on. Either that or our firepower. Plus the phones stayed up and Flea kept us more or less up to date. Some Muslim group I'd never heard of was claiming credits for the attacks, but no country claimed knowledge of the group. Best guess was al-Qaeda or some related group.

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"Gary, David."

"What's new?"

"Did you hear about that group claiming credit?"

"It was on KTPI. Know anything about them?"

"No. I said I'd keep you up to date. First, everyone who supplied crude to the US has stopped shipping to us claiming it's too risky. Second, Damon called and he's in Arkansas. I had the impression that they might head out there, but he didn't exactly say that. Third, the Muslim declared nationwide martial law with a dusk to dawn curfew, with exceptions for transportation. What's the food situation there?"

"We're good on food for now because everyone had a little stocked up. Derek was out here a while back and we have things we shouldn't so security shouldn't be an issue, for now. We're still harvesting from the garden and unless they've done a flyover, they don't know about that. How are things in Nevada?"

"So far, so good. Food supplies are limited, but we're ok for now. We've had rolling blackouts since the bombings, but usually get a minimum of 6 hours of power a day. They said that Cali lost several refineries, what do you know about that?"

"I haven't heard, but there's one in Wilmington and another in Richmond. I'd expect they're down for now. There's another one up by Bakersfield that didn't get hit as far as I know. We have CNG and State Defense Force here plus about a million and half refugees. Anything else?"

"I'd better go, God speed and good luck."

"Bye."

I didn't know it at the time, but the terrorist attacks were the clouds on the horizon, signaling the beginning of the storm. We kept almost everyone but some of the older men in the shelter until the radiation level was back to 50mR and falling. We worked in those 6 hour shifts and everyone logged their radiation doses. We only used the older men because we were past our prime and, in general terms, mean. We'd seen enough of life that we didn't book any chit; it was our way or the highway.

Arnold was re-elected in 2006 and would serve from 2007 until 1/5/2011. Many of us thought he was a RINO, but with the attacks, he acted more like an American than an Austrian, quickly losing the RINO label. It's just a shame he can't be President, I think now, he'd be a good one. The jury is still out on Obama, but I think he'll be convicted of misfeasance (improper and unlawful execution of an act that in itself is lawful and proper). I though it meant inept and if you delete unlawful, I could be right.

Fleataxi is probably a better Christian than I am. At least, he's more of a fundamentalist. On the other hand, I'm a free thinking Methodist, for whatever that's worth. I don't like homosexuals, Mexicans or Muslims, so I can't be all bad. However, I believe in the right for a woman to choose to have an abortion in the case of rape or incest, so I suppose that affects my conservative credentials. I don't believe in abortion for sex selection or failure to use birth control; if you voluntarily made the baby, you get to raise it. Moreover, if the truth be told, I hate people who put values behind being politically correct. My dictionary contains a group of politically incorrect words including raghead, wetback, queer, fag and don't get me started... The deleted letters are either 'a' or 'e'. I'm also convinced that Beck is wrong, he's too liberal. If Al Sharpton ever dies, he'll run out of guests. Sharpton lives on CNN and Fox News.

The exceptions were the older women who had to keep the garden going.

The only fuel available was for the military and law enforcement and we were told that wouldn't change in the near future. As far as most of us were concerned, that was just fine. If we could get what we couldn't grow from Target, Costco and Sam's Club, we should be ok. Those FEMA folks, who actually showed up, complained a lot about our firearms, but because of Arnold's decree, there wasn't a whole lot they could do. Under-

stand, the fun things weren't openly displayed. We only carried firearms that would have otherwise been legal in some states before the new law.

The Storm – Chapter 5

A person has to give the Governor credit; he'd made several statements opposing fire-arms. He was caught between a rock and a hard spot, ergo, MS-13 and the California Survivalists. There are probably as many of us as there are of the gangsters; although, most of them are better armed.

Between what we could get from the stores and what we could produce ourselves, we'd eat. Once the radiation died down, the shelter emptied. We still kept the school bus across the entrance of the tract, a person couldn't be too careful. Sharon and I were still getting our trust income, social security and pensions but they didn't stretch nearly as far as they once did. The only gas available was black market gas that ran about \$10 a gallon. We used some of the gas we'd stored for the generator and limited our travel to stores or walked when we could. We had to limit our purchases to one grocery cart per person; it's a long way to push a heavy cart.

We all tried to stay ahead of the curve, buying only essentials. My list included smokes, toilet paper and ammo if it ever became available again. Derek decided not to come out and Damon went back to Britt. We'd just harvested the potatoes when the ground began to rumble. We had small foreshocks, daily. The first was small, ~2.5 and then they grew. It wasn't if, but when, the fault was trying to ease the strain, but only a large earthquake would work.

When they started, we tried our best to earthquake proof our home. Sharon unloaded her china from the hutch and boxed it. We anchored every piece of furniture we could. I got a building inspector to look over the shelter and recommend anything we needed to do to make sure it didn't collapse. He wrote me up for not having a permit on the shelter, jerk. He hung a red tag on it, not because it wasn't safe, but because it wasn't approved. When I explained how it was built, he said he'd have to inspect it behind the OSB before he could approve it and I'd have to pay some fees. I tore that red tag into confetti. He said he'd be back; I told him not to hurry.

Over the next 2 months we had an earthquake swarm but never a really big earthquake. Then the rumbling began to die down and we figured we were home free. With the exception of fuel, the cities were being cleaned up, food was generally available and the troops and cops maintained order. We even removed the bus and a Deputy picked up the badges. All, that is, except the one Lance had. Instead, we became reserves in the California State Military Reserve.

I should add, 'sort of'. Most of us weren't veterans and that counted a lot. I was but I couldn't pass the walking physical. The primary things we had going for us were fire-arms and attitude. We were in charge of defending Moon Shadows, for crying out loud. They didn't say from what, so I should have known that it didn't mean much. When the ladies ran out of dill, they switched to sweet pickles. Sharon even began to make homemade mayonnaise from egg yolks, Dijon mustard, vinegar and oil.

We hadn't had WW III, yet, and the country had been kicked hard in the groin but was far from down. Fuel suppliers began to increase the portion of ethanol in the gasoline. Iowa went to 20% and most states went to either gasohol (10%) all the way up to E-85. The difference between a flex fuel vehicle and a standard vehicle is the fueling system. E-85 vehicles have a different tank and lines plus a special computer chip. North American vehicles from approximately 1980 onward can run on gasohol (10% ethanol/90% gasoline i.e., E-10) with no modifications.

Originally, sensors in both the fuel-line and in the exhaust system were used for flexible fuel vehicles. In recent years, manufacturers have instead opted to use only the oxygen (lambda) sensor in the exhaust manifold, before the catalytic converter, and to eliminate the fuel inline sensor. This fuel inline sensor was removed in model year 1998: DaimlerChrysler; 2001: Ford and 2006: GM. As E-85 and M-85 are more corrosive, special fuel system materials are also required. Some manufacturers also require special motor oil be used, particularly in vehicles using methanol fuel. Recently US companies are offering products, originally developed in Brazil, which will convert gasoline-only, fuel-injected vehicles to flex-fuel vehicles. Typical conversion packages include an electronic device to increase injected fuel volume per cycle (because of the lower energy content of ethanol) and in some cases a chemical treatment to protect the engine from corrosion. Products include AutoFFV from Abcesso, and Flex-Tek from XCelPlus. Flex fuel vehicles:

2008:

- 2.7L Dodge Avenger

2007:

- 4.6L Ford Crown Victoria (2-valve, excluding taxi and police units)
- 5.4L Ford F-150
- 4.6L Lincoln Town Car (2-valve)
- 4.6L Mercury Grand Marquis
- 4.7L Dodge Durango
- 4.7L Dodge Ram Pickup 1500 Series
- 4.7L Chrysler Aspen
- 4.7L Jeep Commander
- 4.7L Jeep Grand Cherokee
- 4.7L Dodge Dakota
- 3.3L Dodge Caravan, Grand Caravan and Caravan Cargo
- 2.7L Chrysler Sebring Sedan

2006:

- 3.0L Ford Taurus sedan and wagon (2-valve)*
- 4.6L Ford Crown Victoria (2-valve, excluding taxi and police units)
- 5.4L Ford F-150 (3-valve. Available in December 2005)
- 4.6L Lincoln Town Car (2-valve)
- 4.6L Mercury Grand Marquis

2004-2005:

- 4.0L Explorer Sport Trac
- 4.0L Explorer (4-door)

- 3.0L Taurus sedan and wagon (2-valve)
- 2002-2004:
- 4.0L Explorer (4-door)
 - 3.0L Taurus sedan and wagon
- 2002-2003:
- 3.0L Supercab Ranger pickup 2WD
- 2001
- 3.0L Supercab Ranger pickup 2WD
 - 3.0L Taurus LX, SE and SES sedan
- 1999-2000
- 3.0L Ranger pickup 4WD and 2WD
 - 3.0L Taurus LX, SE and SES sedan
- Many 1995-98 Taurus 3.0L Sedans are also FFVs

Note: * denotes fleet purchase only; source Wiki. Thank God we got the Internet back.

◦

Fleataxi told me that talks about the North American Union broke down, explaining why we had been invaded by Mexico. He said they wanted our corn before we converted it to fuel; they were starving without corn to make masa and then tortillas. Like Marie Antoinette said, "Let them eat cake."

Quote:

Nuclear Experts Urge Return to Bomb Shelters

Harkening a return to Cold War programs to prepare US residents for nuclear war, a group of high-level experts plans to urge local communities to dig underground bomb shelters to protect them from the aftermath of a terrorist nuclear weapons attack, the San Francisco Chronicle reported today (May 8, 2007).

The 41-member group convened last month in Washington to discuss ways to improve the emergency response to such an attack, based on the premise that nuclear terror prevention efforts are inadequate. Sponsored by Stanford and Harvard universities, the meeting included directors of US nuclear weapons laboratories, Homeland Security Department officials, and current and former top military officials, according to the Chronicle.

Organizers have begun to prepare a summary paper that recommends several civil defense measures, including building bomb shelters, setting rules to strictly limit citizen movement after an attack to keep roadways open and lifting radiation safety rules for emergency responders, the Chronicle reported.

"The public at large will expect that their government had thought through this possibility and to have planned for it," said event organizer Ashton Carter of Harvard University.

“This kind of an event would be unprecedented. We have had glimpses of something like this with Hiroshima, and glimpses with 9/11 and with Katrina. But those are only glimpses.”

The group discussed a scenario in which terrorists detonate a 10- to 15-kiloton nuclear weapon, comparable to the US bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Participants worked on the assumption, however, that terrorists would have more than one weapon. “If one bomb goes off, there are likely to be more to follow,” Carter said. “This fact, that nuclear terrorism will appear as a syndrome rather than a single episode, has major consequences.”

Some participants argued that those consequences would be so enormous that greater efforts are needed to prevent such a scenario.

“Your cities would empty and people would completely lose confidence in the ability of the government to protect them,” said University of Maryland professor Steve Fetter. “You’d have nothing that resembles our current social order. I’m not sure any preparation can be sufficient to deal with that.”

End Quote. I told you, don't say I didn't!!! BTW, wood works, if you use enough.

Those Mexicans were meeting resistance all along the border, from more than just the Minuteman Project. I'd go except that I have guard duty from noon until 6pm.

They threw Gilchrist out, but he sued and won. A new non-profit has been formed and it had acquired essentially all the assets of the former organization. As I said earlier, I have nothing against people living in Mexico, as long as they stay there or immigrate legally. The rest of them are eligible to apply to be targets. They might be safe, I don't move too fast. No hablo español. So, if I yell "stand still," they might not understand.

Yes, that's obviously rather narrow minded, but not for someone who lives in a housing tract that's increasingly becoming inhabited by illegals from south of the border. They buy a home and move 3-4 families in to be able to afford the payments. After that, they develop an attitude that we should learn to speak Spanish and adopt their culture. I might be willing to learn a little Spanish, provided they learned a little American English. I don't like the loud parties that start around 4pm and run until 1am.

We were lucky, some of them moved out when the fallout began. Up to this time, few of them had returned. Personally, I hoped they were down south, fighting on the other side. Fleataxi said that other Governors had also issued Executive Orders refuting the new law, provided that the weapons were used to protect the US of A.

I find it interesting that the federal laws regulating firearms are all based on the power of the government to regulate interstate commerce. The laws are generally contained in Title 18 of the US Code. The Constitution only mentions one crime by name, Treason. To the best of my knowledge and belief, all other federal criminal laws are based on the

Commerce Clause. Law school was a long time ago, so I could be wrong. I quit law school because I wanted an honorable profession, like tax auditor. I suppose I could have been a reporter... not.

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A quick summary here: terrorists have nuked 5 US cities; the ground has been rumbling in Kali until recently; and, the Mexicans have invaded. That's not the bad part; the bad part is that Obama is President and he's enacted the worst gun control law in history. The good part is that several Governors are ignoring him and have issued Executive Orders that temporarily override the stupid federal law. The other good part is that we're well armed, as usual, here in Moon Shadows (phase 6) housing tract. No doubt those Executive Orders will soon be tested in federal court and will found to be excessive.

Clarence has taken off for parts east and our new good buddy is Fleataxi. He's keeping us up to date from where he lives (near Elko, NV) outside of where the nukes were detonated. He's our new amigo, as it were. I still don't like Glock's, but we did buy 3 Mossberg 590A1s. I hope you've got that because it's time for the fun to begin. We're not having fun yet, I haven't fired a single shot. Look out when I do, I have quite the armory.

o

"Hey."

"Don't call me hay, that's the first stage of horsechit."

"With an 'E' not an 'A'."

"Same difference."

Ron was in good form, as usual. He came over to pick me up and take me shooting. He wanted to refine the sighting on his Super Match. I wanted a Super Match, too, but had to settle for a Tac-50. It was so heavy, I had to use the winch to get it out of the shelter. Then, I used the 4 wheeled cart to get it to his car. I needed to check the sighting and see what Raufoss would really do.

"Where are we going to go shooting?"

"North, near the base of the Tehachapi's."

"Is there a range there?"

"No, just the mountains. Do you need a bigger backstop?"

"Gee, I hope not."

"Jose?"

"Me. If a mountain isn't a big enough backstop, I'm in trouble. With that scope, I should be able to shoot 6-700 yards."

"That's a 1,000-yard rifle, Gar-Bear."

"Maybe so, but I'm not a 1,000-yard shooter. My name is Gary Ott, not Ron Brown. I don't want to shoot much of that ammo, I won't be able to replace it."

"Why not?"

"It's a destructive device, hence totally illegal in civilian hands."

"I won't tell if you don't."

o

There has been much debate over whether the Mk 211 projectile is legal to use against personnel, or if it is strictly anti-material ammunition. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has sought to have the ammunition banned, due to concern over the incendiary and explosive components and their effect on personnel. Under the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868 the use of explosive projectiles with a weight of under 400 grams and incendiary ammunition against personnel is forbidden.

Trials conducted by Forsvarets Forskningsinstitut (Norwegian Defense Research Establishment) has concluded that the ammunition most likely does not have an unlawful effect if unintentionally used against personnel, as the round will have penetrated the body and exited on the other side before the fuze of the weapon trigger the incendiary and explosive components of the round. Hitting a person the round will detonate about 50% of the time, if the target is wearing body armor a higher detonation frequency is to be expected (as shown by the ICRC tests carried out in 1999). If detonated, the round will have a significant fragmentation and incendiary effect in a 30 degree cone behind the struck target, and this might affect others standing in the vicinity. The distance the round will travel from ignition to detonation is 30-40cm, so if the target is hit at a certain angle the round may still be inside the target at the time of detonation.

The ICRC conclusion is that the ammunition is illegal against personnel, and the concern is how to prevent the projectile from being used in an anti-personnel role in the event of war. Most nations using the round train their soldiers not to deploy the projectile against personnel, but in the heat of battle such regulations are easily overlooked. Also, many parties currently fielding the ammunition have no such regulations.

The official stance of the Norwegian Government is that the 12.7 mm MP round should not be used against personnel. It is being exported strictly in an anti-materiel capacity.

The current US policy (the United States has not signed the St. Petersburg Declaration) is that the ammunition is suitable for use against all targets.

Mk 211 Ammunition is not distributed to the civilian market in the United States; if it were, it would be classified under the National Firearms Act as a destructive device, requiring individual registration of each round.

That's why TOM says Raufoss is illegal, folks, he looked it up. It costs \$207.50 per round. Plus tax. Giuliani restated his personal opposition to abortion but support of a woman's right to choose. He and I agreed on just one thing.

o

When we got there, Ron set my targets up, he didn't have any. These targets had a 3" red bullseye, and were black out to a 9" circle and the 5 ring was a 16" circle. IIRC, a 100-yard target in the Air Force had a 5" bullseye. Then he told me to step off 100-yards. Yeah right. I got out a 100' tape measure and we measured 300' in 100' increments. It looked further than it measured, I was glad I used a tape. I took the right target and he took the left. I tried the iron sights and they were still right on the money. Then Ron shot and zeroed his Super Match at 100 yards. I suspected he had it zoomed up to maximum magnification. I waited while he replaced the targets, then we measured out an additional 600' in 100' increments. It was already starting to get late.

I got my scope zeroed using minimum magnification. He adjusted his rifle and seemed to be right on the money. Not bad for a guy with only one eye. I got out the Tac-50 and fired just enough rounds to zero it in at 300-yards. He tried it and could shoot as well as I could, maybe better. Let me tell you, that rifle is loud. He had pulled a string back when he changed the targets. We measured out 900-yards and divided the sting into thirds, determining the 1,000-yard line.

We were in trouble now, I couldn't see the target without the scope. With the scope on maximum magnification and adjusted to 1,000-yards, the 16" ring wasn't really large enough. Maybe I should have tried 600-yards, my favorite range. One MOA at 1,000 yards is 10"; the rifle could do it, but I couldn't. I didn't feel too bad, Ron couldn't either.

We left before a LEO showed up and wanted to examine my rifle and Ron's 20-round magazines. I can tell you, I'm going to be very careful shooting my shotgun, it hurt. Some claim that shooting a .50 caliber rifle is like shooting as 12 gauge. I didn't know they still made 4 gauge shotguns. A 4 gauge is the largest 'shotgun' made; 3 gauge and larger are called 'punt' guns. The largest punt gun made was for the show, 'Tremors 4', had a 2" barrel and weighed almost 100 pounds.

"That gun sure is loud."

"Huh?"

"Loud, Gar-Bear, it's loud."

"Next time I'm going to bring ear muffs, my ears are still ringing."

"Is that all you have, those foam ear plugs?"

"I think the problem is that all I have is these darned foam earplugs."

You may think I'm just trying to be cute. That's an actual conversation, best I can remember. I'd ruined my hearing when I was in the Air Force, using cigarette filters as earplugs. I had ringing in my right ear until about 2004, when I started to go deaf in that ear. My favorite word – huh? If you're talking to me on the phone, you can win a bet. Bet them you can predict which ear the phone is at (pick left ear). You younger guys should take heed, life's a bitch and then you get old. Don't mess with the things you'll need later, like your hearing.

I said the storm clouds were on the horizon, as indicated by the terrorist attacks. We had other problems and they were all coming home to roost. Do you remember Gordon Sinclair? It's worth repeating:

The United States dollar took another pounding on German, French and British exchanges this morning, hitting the lowest point ever known in West Germany. It has declined there by 41% since 1971 and this Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least-appreciated people in all the world.

As long as sixty years ago, when I first started to read newspapers, I read of floods on the Yellow River and the Yangtse. Well, who rushed in with men and money to help? The Americans did, that's who.

They have helped control floods on the Nile, the Amazon, the Ganges and the Niger. Today, the rich bottom land of the Mississippi is under water and no foreign land has sent a dollar to help. Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy, were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of those countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

When the franc was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. And I was there. I saw that.

When distant cities are hit by earthquakes, it is the United States that hurries into help... Managua Nicaragua is one of the most recent examples. So far this spring, 59 American communities have been flattened by tornadoes. Nobody has helped.

The Marshall Plan... the Truman Policy... all pumped billions upon billions of dollars into discouraged countries. And now, newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent war-mongering Americans.

I'd like to see one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplanes.

Come on... let's hear it! Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tristar or the Douglas 10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all international lines except Russia fly American planes? Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or a woman on the moon?

You talk about Japanese technocracy and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy and you find men on the moon, not once, but several times ... and safely home again. You talk about scandals and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even the draft dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are right here on our streets in Toronto, most of them... unless they are breaking Canadian laws... are getting American dollars from Ma and Pa at home to spend here.

When the Americans get out of this bind... as they will... who could blame them if they said 'the hell with the rest of the world'. Let someone else buy the bonds, let someone else build or repair foreign dams or design foreign buildings that won't shake apart in earthquakes.

When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both of them are still broke. I can name to you 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble.

Can you name to me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake. Our neighbors have faced it alone and I am one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their noses at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles.

I hope Canada is not one of these. But there are many smug, self-righteous Canadians. And finally, the American Red Cross was told at its 48th Annual meeting in New Orleans this morning that it was broke.

This year's disasters... with the year less than half-over... has taken it all and nobody... but nobody... has helped.

© 1973 By Gordon Sinclair

That was a different time, and the country has changed in the intervening years. We were mostly free back then; now, it's anyone's guess. I oft times think the Canadians appreciate America more than we Americans. Now don't misunderstand, neither Ron nor I favor the North American Union.

We barely made it back before dark, saved only by daylight savings time. Ron went home and I had dinner. Tonight, I had the graveyard shift on the entrance. No more bus, but we did keep 3 people there. Chris and Dave were out of work and Dick was only working 3 days a week. Once rebuilding started, assuming it did, he'd make up for it, probably working 14 hours a day.

Compare our situation to the days after 9/11, the country didn't stop, it simply slowed down. When you realize how much debris they had to remove from the WTC site, they didn't slow down for long. That ended when it was presumed there were no more survivors.

We didn't have peace for long, the interval between the troop withdrawals and the invasion our southern border was far too brief. If you ask me, our southern neighbors underestimated our response. They probably assumed that the new gun law had eliminated the firearms in the hands of private citizens. Hell, even Japan didn't make that mistake. They'd done better to remember the words of Yamamoto, about waking a sleeping giant.

Our equipment might have been beat up, but most of it still worked and I wouldn't have gone up against an Abrams even if it needed an overhaul. Derek called and said his unit had been ordered to the Texas border. They're equipped with MLRS and M106A6 Paladins. He completed the MSO school and only recently got his promotion to Sgt. 1st Class. I told him it reminded me of our joint story, Whetstone. He wanted to know if we were ok and I explained that Ron and I sighted in the rifles and that Tac-50 was just too heavy for an old man.

"If you couldn't use it, why did you want it?"

"You know about the love affair between a man and his guns."

"You might not feel that way, if you'd seen the elephant."

"Maybe, I don't know. I sure envy Ron his Super Match."

The Storm – Chapter 6

"Is it that much better than your rifle?"

"In the right hands, yes. I got lucky, I guess, my M1A is rifle enough for me."

"I was frankly surprised you could shoot as well as you do."

"So was I, Derek; but not as surprised as how well you can shoot. What's the family going to do while you're down in Texas?"

"Mary will run the apartment complex and try to keep things together."

"Watch your six and keep your power dry."

"I always do."

He did too. They'd had an adventure or two in Kosovo and Iraq wasn't pretty. They were in Diyala Providence. Their primary duty was escorting convoys and their other duty was guarding a group of 'special people'. Sorry, can't tell you more; I'm not supposed to know. I can tell you that not all Iraqis were the enemy. They lost one kid to an IED, the insurgents hit them on their way back from Baghdad to their FOB. Thank God, Danny Sesker never knew what hit him.

The Mexican Army had reported copied the G36; they were a better rifle than our M16. The down side, for them, was they built their own firearms. One could always hope that they weren't good craftsmen. On February 1, 2007 a meeting was held in Mexico City, attended by representatives of the Mexican Defense Ministry and Heckler and Koch. After an inspection and exhibition of the weaponry involved, the HK representatives decided that the FX05 wasn't a copy of the G36V and dropped the dispute.

All soldiers have some sort of firearm, the real test is the soldier, not the gun. Derek had an M16A2 and an M9. His rifle shot good, he emailed me a photo of a target. He be in command of either a MLRS or a M109A6, he didn't say which. They had some of the M982 (Excalibur) rounds. You know the one, it has a built in GPS and you can't miss. The CEP is 10 meters but they're better than that. Their guns had the new 52 caliber barrel, replacing the 39 caliber barrel.

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That was the last I heard from him until it was over. The Mexican Army lost, just like they usually do. It wasn't for want of trying, he claimed. He had some souvenirs, some of those FX05 "Xiuhtli" rifles, the assault rifle version with the longer barrel. I didn't like them, but I would take a few G3s if he could find them. I'm not a fan of the 5.56. Derek said little about Kosovo, less about Iraq and refused to discuss this latest war he'd been involved in. A trained tanker, he'd never once gone to war with the Abrams.

As things settled down, a federal district court ruled the Governors' Executive Orders were illegal and we had to hide our firearms, again. Nobody knew of our shelter, other than that we had one. They could presume what they wanted, but they never found out which backyard held it. I had a bit of a problem with my blood; the doctor in Lancaster said I'd killed too many red cells from fallout and should take iron and eat meat, especially liver, to get back up to snuff. I'd die before I'd eat liver. My mother cooked it to death and burned the onions, never again.

The real reason I wanted the Tac-50 was because it was illegal, cheaper and more accurate than a Barrett. It was my form of protesting those stupid Kalifornia gun laws. I hoped once I got my blood straightened out, I'd have more strength and could carry it, if needed. I took Fem Iron tablets because Sharon had some. The follow up blood test showed a minor improvement in my blood and the doctor said to keep doing whatever I'd decided, it was working.

The hot, dry summer and little rain did a number on the forests. The Angeles National Forest was red level dry, as was the Los Padres, Yosemite, and the others. There are many in California and they started to burn. The fires built from individual, regional fires to a firestorm and the haze filling the AV made it nearly impossible to breathe. West of Palmdale, when we went shooting at Christmas 2006, everything was burning and it was working its way closer to town. I'd seen it burn at Avenue S and 10th Street West back when I was living on the Westside. That was nothing, by comparison.

"What do you think about that fire?"

"If it continues to move east, it's going to burn right up to Barrel Springs Road. If they can't stop it there, we could be in trouble, Ron."

o

That fire was south of our house maybe 3 miles and came up to the aqueduct. You can use the map and back it out some to see where the fire was. If it jumped the aqueduct, again, we'd be in very big trouble. It wouldn't be the first time a fire down there (it's the Angeles National Forest) jumped the aqueduct. When it happened before, Los Angeles still had a fire department.

Darn, I think that makes 4. You know what I mean, don't you? The rule of 3s; we've had 4, so we have 5 more to go, provided, of course, we get through this. If you back the map out about 4 clicks you'll see Avenue S. Clarence and Shirley's home is west of 47th and south of Avenue S. Ron and Linda live off of Avenue R-4, 4 blocks south of me and east about 6 blocks. They put in a fire line along Pearblossom Road and managed to stop the fire there.

"What's that?"

"I got it from a private party, Gar-Bear. It's a Para Ordnance P..."

"14. Damn, 14+1. Did you get any extra magazines?"

"Yeah, 6 spares. Say, did you ever figure out how much you'd be carrying if you had the Tac-50, 10 full magazines and all the chit you'd need to carry?"

"One round weighs 4+ ounces. That would make 250 ounces or a little over 15 pounds plus the magazines and the rifle. That doesn't count the pair of scopes, my pistol, a couple of MREs, 2 canteens and the rest of my stuff."

"Gar-Bear, you can't get there from where you're at."

"Heard that before, on the CB. I suppose you're right, even if you carry half of my ammo."

"Why would I do that?"

"Doesn't the spotter carry the extra ammo?"

"I'm the spotter? Hell, I have the Super Match."

"Yeah, you can make the closer shots."

"Doesn't Barrett make a pintle mount?"

"Yeah, they call it their soft mount. It attaches to the rifle's lower receiver by the midlock pin. The rifle can then be mounted in any Mil Spec pintle socket for ease of transport and immediate operation. I think they cost about a grand. I may see if Dave can make something like it for the Tac-50."

"How much did Ammoman charge for the Barrett ammo?"

"He wanted \$329 for 80 rounds, delivered. It's 661 grain, FMJ ammo, but almost \$5 a round and it's not as good as Hornady A-MAX 750gr."

"Then you don't have any FMJ?"

"Don't need it, we have Mk 211 MP."

"What's going to go down next?"

"Damned if I know, but I'm sure getting tired of surprises. Derek got some of the new Mexican Assault rifles, want one?"

"How about 6?"

"I'll have to call, I'm not sure he got that many. When I call, I'll have to ask about that."

"We don't have Hummer's, yet, but you never know. I've read some of those stories you wrote, you seemed to have a thing for strategic reallocation."

"Why not, it's not the same as looting? Strategic reallocation is acquiring things you can use after TSHTF. Looting would be taking things of value that you want more than need. We have a fair stockpile already, but you can never have too many guns or too much ammo. After talking to Derek, I'm not sure we'd want up armored HMMWVs, they're awfully heavy. Some may come on the market, the Army is replacing some of theirs. But, if we could get a pair of upgraded units, I could go for that."

"Boy toys no. 1 and no. 2?"

"I suppose. Besides the ones the military has also have SINCGARS radios. They're frequency hopping radios that are hard to intercept unless your SINCGARS is set up using the same frequency hopping setup."

"Say did you ever get your driver's license back?"

"Nope."

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"How many Mexican rifles did you get?"

"How many do you want?"

"I'm not into 5.56, but I suppose we'd take 12. Do you have enough?"

"I have about 4 dozen. I suppose you'll want ammo, too?"

"Would 60k of M193 be too much to expect?"

"That one pallet load, I think I can do it. Like I said, I'll have to make a phone call. I've got to go, anything else? Last chance."

"Can you get more of you already brought plus a couple of M240s?"

"Plus a pallet of ammo?"

"Gun isn't any good without ammo."

"I'll send you a one word email, either yes or no. I can have it shipped directly to cut down any hassles. Why do you want those?"

"Ron said that the next time TSHTF, we'd pick up a couple of HMMWVs."

"Go for M1114s, if you can find them. They'll run on anything, but if you can, pick up some JP 8."

"Is that what the Marines use?"

"They use JP 5. Get two small tanker trailers and fill them up with military fuel. Just so you know, Jet A is the same as JP 8."

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The email said, "yes, 10 days to your door."

I got more than I asked for. The extras double the previous quantity of the things he'd given me before, exclusive of the A3s but with 12 nearly new Mexican Assault Rifles and 2 full cases of magazines. These mags were some kind of plastic and you could see the rounds. Ron and I could equip the HMMWVs, provided we ever got any. I don't see why he didn't just send two of them too.

Ten days? It seemed more like a year. I didn't know the military could do anything that fast. Maybe they couldn't, Derek's friend sure could. I wonder how many Mexican rifles the stuff cost? They were included. I assume Derek sent all of them to him and he got the pick of the litter. What we got wasn't in bad shape, the rifles hadn't been out that long and hadn't really been used that much. I was looking for place to put the additional 'stuff'. Those guys on the east coast who got busted for a few grenades had nothing on us. The other side of that coin was would we really need the ordnance? Gee, I hope not.

Derek's estimate of the load I'd be carrying was about as much as I weighed. Right, I could barely lift me. Ron even laughed about my M1A, claiming the rifle and ammo were more than my limit. I told myself I wouldn't get even when he started lugging around the Super Match. Yeah, right – in a pig's eye.

In order to get those Hummer's something really bad had to happen. My list included Yellowstone, Long Valley, WW III or that rock. For a brief moment or two, I thought maybe the firestorm would get us. We kept everything clean and oiled, and tucked away where they hopefully wouldn't find it. We had a government of the people, by the people and for themselves. Two out of three usually isn't bad; usually.

Now that things had finally settled down, I was back to my usual position – sitting in front of my computer in my robe, checking whatever news I could find on the internet and speculating about what would happen next. When I was 15, I couldn't imagine making it to 65. At 65, I doubted I ever see 70. In March of the current year, I checked my new government approved California ID card, just to see how old I really was. I wonder where they bury the chip in that card? I'm sure it must have one, Kalifornia would never

miss a chance to take away more of your rights. Near as I can tell, BB guns are still legal, but you must be 18 to buy the BB's.

Say, can anyone tell me how long we can store these hand grenades? I can't find anything in FM 3-23.30. We wouldn't want them to go bad before we used them on the MZBs. Flea's sweetheart, Fineswine, introduced legislation banning .50 caliber rifles in mid-2007. Apparently, cops were worried the gangsters might buy one and shoot holes in their LAVs. Dumb!

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On March 31st, they sealed off the housing tract and announced they were staying until they got the guns. Shades of Andrew Sheppard! I sure hope they brought their own food, they'll be here a while. It was warming up, so Ron came over and we rototilled the backyard getting ready to plant. I contacted Canning Panty for more jars and lids. I also wanted to try some of those pickle spices. We had the money, so I ordered another 30 quart All American pressure canner.

It's not the largest garden space I've ever seen, so it was surprising how much food we could get out of about 1,700ft². However, by limiting the number of crops we planted, we were able to more or less maximize output. I didn't plant much corn, it takes way too much space for what you get. This year would be Roma tomatoes, potatoes, onions, cucumbers, green beans, green peppers and little of the other crops. Well, maybe a row of beets, a few pints of those will last forever; I may be the only one who likes them.

It was cheaper, even now, to buy quart jars of peaches and pears from Costco than can them. The problem, of course, was that as long as the Gestapo was here, we couldn't store the food in the shelter, forcing us to stack it on the back patio. I don't know why, but Sharon insisted on loading up on more toilet paper, coffee and important stuff than in previous years. Maybe she knew something I didn't, or, maybe she finally got the message, but don't count your chickens. She even bought me 48 bars of Irish Spring. She buys me a 3 pack of Edge shaving soap about once every 6 years. I let my whiskers grow, cut them back weekly with a hair trimmer, then shave.

This year, we planted Kennebec - oblong, late, eyes shallow, high specific gravity, good chipper, general purpose use. They gave a pretty good yield and kept well, but did better up north, not really a baking potato. We didn't need to plant many crops, it was easier to go to Costco or Sam's Club. We bought 100# bags of pintos from Albertsons and 50# bags of rice from Costco. I love Mexicorn, but we can't buy it by the case, unless we order a few cases.

Folgers came from Costco, usually by the half case (6 cans). Cigarettes came from them too, but required several trips through the checkout lanes due to their 2 carton limit. One would have thought they'd eliminated that because of our troubles, but they didn't. However, we knew the clock was ticking, those A-Rabs wouldn't be happy until we were either dead or converts. I plan to serve them pineapples.

I continued to receive eyes only emails from A. Friend. We both monitored the news, but he subscribed to some sources I didn't. We were waiting for chemical warfare attacks, a pandemic, WW III, or worst, a natural disaster that couldn't be blamed on anyone. That's only partly true; we could probably blame the NWS or the USGS. Perhaps in a rare case, the US Corps of Engineers. These things are always somebody's fault, even though it's the sheeple who aren't prepared. They believe that crap the DHS puts out and only have a 3 day supply. A 3 day supply means you're basically out of what you need, a 3 month supply means you've been paying attention.

Ron asked if I were the Elmer Gantry of preparedness. Never thought about it, could be. If you don't understand that, find out who Elmer Gantry was (Burt Lancaster).

The first clue I had that the next disaster had arrived was when I woke up to find myself laying on the floor. First time I'd ever been thrown out of bed by an earthquake. Well, crap, I thought we were past that. The house didn't come down and all those preparations we'd made when we'd had the swarm, helped.

"You ok?"

"Is this the big one?"

"I'm not sure, I woke up on the floor. You'd better get dressed and we'd better move to the garden, we'll get a big aftershock any moment."

"Did you check on Amy and the kids?"

"I heard Audrey and Udell screaming so they must be ok."

I got dressed, grabbed a new pack of smokes and headed to the kitchen slider. It was stuck big time. We ended up going out the front door and into the street. All the light poles were down and our front patio cover wasn't looking too solid. I half expect the back patio cover to be down, but as I made my way to the backyard, I discovered it was still up and looked more solid than the front patio cover. At least the Gestapo had left.

I hurried to un-stack the boxes of food before they fell over and we lost everything in jars. Rule of thumb is if the quake doesn't bring things down, it loosens them and the first aftershock brings them down. The situation can best be described as so far, so good. I'll be honest here, I've never quite figured out the difference between magnitude (Richter Scale) and moment magnitude. The USGS (see, it's their fault) says, "Moment is a physical quantity proportional to the slip on the fault times the area of the fault surface that slips; it is related to the total energy released in the EQ." I was having enough trouble with Richter...

"Is everyone ok?"

"Most of them are out in the street. They seem to be safe; the light poles are already down."

"I noticed. Can you find a percolator? We can make coffee on the burner on the gas grill."

"I don't think we have a percolator, Gary."

"Sure we do, it's in the camping gear in the shed."

"You moved all that stuff to the shelter."

"Oops. Well hell, we can go down there and make coffee."

"Are you sure the shelter won't cave in?"

"Uh, I don't think so. It's built to withstand about 3psi."

Unlike the homes you often see on TV, our fireplace chimneys didn't come down because they built from wood and are an extension of the house. That had to do, I suppose, with these being relatively inexpensive homes. They used a prefabricated firebox and a metal chimney. They were pre-plumbed for a gas log (not included). We burned wood in ours during the first years we lived here. I was delegated to go down below and make the coffee. She told me to fill the urn and we'd figure out later how to get it top side. The main problem with being the neighborhood preparedness nut is they all show up when something happens.

"The government boys are gone."

"Hi Lance, I noticed. They probably chickened out. Coffee is in the urn and I have my genset running to keep it warm."

"How big do you figure?"

"Richter? Maybe 7 up to 8. Don't know, worst one I've ever been through."

"Elvia lost some of her china."

"We boxed ours up back when we had that swarm. So far, the only problem I see is the front patio cover looks loose and the sliding door is stuck. No big deal, we needed to replace it anyway."

"Oops hang on, rock and roll time."

It went on all day, the aftershocks generally becoming smaller as time passed. Dick told me he wouldn't rest the earthquake valve on the gas line until it settled down. That

made sense, anything over M4 was supposed to trip it. Besides, I didn't really know if we had gas or not. Lance had switched his standby unit to propane and Dick had gone around and shut off the gas valves for all of the homes. I didn't live here when the patio cover went up and now took time to see if the lags went into rafters (they did). However, the ones on the front patio cover didn't.

It was going to be one of those days and I whipped up macaroni salad. Elvia put together some kind of Cuban dish that looked good. I also got corrected, it wasn't Elvira, it was Elvia. Shucks, I had it wrong in how many stories? We thawed things we could fix on the grills. Patti fixed her grill potatoes and Sharon pulled out a couple of tri-tips to thaw. Dick checked later that afternoon and we didn't have gas coming into the housing tract. We didn't have water either, but I hadn't noticed due to our water tank.

KTPI said that the fracture ran from southeast of Palmdale all the way to Gorman. For you non-Californians, think Ft. Tejon. It's just a little further north on I-5. They're Palmdale studio is out on Sierra Highway, south of Avenue M. I can't explain why we didn't have electricity; our sole source was the wind turbines at Tehachapi. They also reported another declaration of a state of emergency; I guess we didn't rate a live feed. We started to see C-130s landing at Palmdale Regional.

Which, somehow, brings me to the point where I have to ask, what does any of this have to do with the global climate change? It seems that even your humble servant occasionally asks a semi-intelligent question. Unfortunately, I don't know the answer; I haven't gotten to that part of the story, yet. If, indeed, the ice is melting and the oceans are rising, why would anyone move TO Florida? It's hot and humid in the summer and much of the population consists of retired New York Jewish people and Cubans. Man, what a combination.

There is one hell of a debate going on right now. Is global warming a natural phenomenon or a man-made phenomenon? That's why this tome had a prologue. You may recall, we started out with Key Insights. The thrust of that was, regardless of the cause, global climate change has major security implications. How much extra CO₂ was forced into the air by those terrorist attacks? If the world is moving toward nuclear power to eliminate CO₂, what does that mean in terms of making more nuclear material available to your average terrorist?

Did Iran's failure to bow down to all those nations concerning its nuclear program set the ball in motion? Another report from another source pointed out around the same time that Khan was still, possibly, helping countries to develop nuclear weapons. In the discussion following the movie '10.5' it was suggested that no number of nuclear weapons could either trigger or halt earthquakes. If that's true, why did we have the earthquake swarm after they ground burst a nuke in the San Fernando Valley? Why only a couple years later did we have what we now perceived to be the big one?

Most of us had been through earthquakes before. That Whittier Narrows quake shook the crap out of our condo in Panorama City. The Northridge quake shook the crap out of

Palmdale. The Palmdale earthquake is still shaking, but it probably shook the hell out of all of southern California. Can't tell you yet, the first C-130s just landed. They could be bringing aid, but I think it more likely they're bring back the troops. Law and Order seems to be the order of the day whenever there is a disaster. In New Orleans, they took the guns away in the aftermath. In Kalifornia, the Governor suspended gun laws after the terrorist attack, go figure.

We're the disaster area, but I haven't heard whether or not the Governor did that again. Probably not, it didn't affect San Francisco (fruit town). Kali is unique, the slogan, *the land of fruits and nuts* describes both agriculture and many of the people. Sort of one of those dual use things, don't you know.

Flea couldn't call and see if we were ok because the phones were out, again. Plus, it's a long way to drive when gas is \$6 a gallon. I guess we should have had both cable and telephone based internet access. Nah, the TV is out too. The only thing working is my battery powered radio, full time and the other radios when we can spare the power. All he has is 2 meters and that's basically line of sight radio, so I couldn't call him on the Kenwood, either. Kind of makes you wonder what Clarence knew and forgot to tell us, doesn't it?

I checked and that makes 5. We're over the hump, but nothing really terrible had happened to us, yet. We did end up getting a low interest loan, the damage was less than the deductible. The house was tweaked and none of the windows or doors would open or close. I like that picture from space, it makes the house look twice as large as it really is. If we could sell it based on that picture, it would bring a half million easy. In the current market, I'd almost settle for paying off the loan. The magnitude must have been lower than 7. The point is that it doesn't matter what the disaster is, if you're involved it means everything, to you.

If you're prepared, it doesn't really matter. On the other hand if you're a long ways from your shelter when the twister comes by bend over and kiss your butt goodbye. We were getting by with nothing more than a 7kw gasoline generator. We had gas, but we bought it when it was still relatively cheap. That PRI-G paid for itself 100 times over. We had a ton of ordnance and hadn't even been to MCLB, Barstow. You can blame that on the guy at the Rock Island Arsenal. The only things we were short of were 2 Hummers; I guess they wouldn't fit in a box. No sweat, we still have 4 disasters to go...

The Storm – Chapter 7

Lance had the tank of propane and refilled our bottles without inspecting them. That kept the stove on the patio working with a line from the generator and a set of jets. I'm afraid of heights and the dark. Getting into the shelter when we had no power was almost a double whammy. You realize that climbing down a ladder is far worse than climbing up, don't you?

We were so focused on our immediate problems, we had no idea that the world was getting ready to explode. Not really, but the powers to be in some countries were. The dollar wasn't worth the paper it was printed on and the new favorite currency was the Euro. Russia pumped gas and the Europeans printed money. The Chinese were still building their military, using up their dollars before they lost all of their value. Check it out at [sinodefence dot com](http://sinodefence.com).

Check out that J-10, it looks very familiar. The only thing it lacks is stealth, but it's cheaper than a Raptor. I'm always tempted to say *Iron Eagle* when I see one; either that or *Tomcat*. It actually resembled the F-16 Fighting Falcon more. We'd improved our military out of existence. Congress started in 2007 when they cut a billion or so from the Future Combat Systems. Derek agreed with me, it made too much sense to replace the M16 with the XM8. We also talked about the Crusader, remember that one? Best piece of mobile artillery... but, they could build 3-4 M109A6s for the price of one Crusader.

"Analyses show that Crusader will increase the effectiveness of the total force (loss exchange ratio - enemy loss/friendly loss) by 24 - 53%, while reducing casualties by about one-third and logistics requirements for fire support by 15-25%. Crusader displaces the M109A6, Paladin, SPH (an upgraded 40-year-old howitzer) and M992, Field Artillery Ammunition Supply Vehicle. In 1996, the Army reduced the force structure from battalions of 24 guns each to battalions of 18 guns. This decision was made to reduce cost with the expectation that Crusader would be fielded to sufficiently offset the loss in force structure." It had a 155 mm, 56 caliber gun and a Honeywell LV100-5 engine.

I suppose the XM8 cost too much, too. The Army ordered 200 XM8's for the Army Test and Evaluation Command to test during the last quarter of 2004. Improvements will be made based on soldier and test feedback before the final three-months of operational tests, which began in fall 2004. The final decision will be up to the Army's senior leadership, but in early 2004 weapons officials said they were confident the XM8 weapon system will be adopted. If all went well, the XM8 would be ready for fielding by late summer 2005.

In 2004 Congress denied \$26 million dollars funding for 7,000 rifles for a test fielding of the XM8 in 2005. The battery life had been extended, and a more heat-resistant plastic hand-guard added. But the rifle still had goals that were unmet, primarily associated with the weapon's weight. The earliest product brochure lists the target weight for the carbine variant at 5.7 lb (2.6 kg) with the then current prototype at 6.2 lb (2.8 kg). The

weight of the carbine prototype has since grown to 7.5 lb (3.4 kg) according to a brochure released by HK and General Dynamics in January 2005.

During 2004 the Army came under pressure from other arms makers to open up the XM8 to competition. Their main arguments were that the weapon being adopted was substantially different from the original XM29 competition that ATK and H&K had actually won. In addition, the Army has a legislative obligation to give preference to US-based manufacturers, and also had an agreement with Colt Defense that required the Army to involve Colt in certain small-arms programs.

On 31 October 2005, the XM8 program was formally suspended, "pending further US Army reevaluations of its priorities for small caliber weapons, and to incorporate emerging requirements identified during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Government will also incorporate studies looking into current capability gaps during said reevaluation."

Maybe we can get Mexico to sell us some FX05 "Xihuhcoatl" rifles. The truth is, it's all politics. I'd take a G36 based weapon in a heartbeat. H&K makes good guns, in the good old USA, folks.

The new Assault Rifle G36 is a completely new modular weapon system in caliber 5.56x45 mm NATO. It is constructed almost entirely of a tough, glass fiber reinforced polymer material. The main weapon components consist of glass fiber reinforced polymer with stainless steel inserts. This has enabled weight to be kept very low without sacrificing strength, durability or robustness. Thanks to the self-regulating gas block, the gas-operated weapon works extremely reliably and only requires a minimum of maintenance. After passing exhaustive tests with excellent results, it was adopted by and is now in use with the Federal German Armed Forces (including the NATO KRF Crisis Reaction Forces). Even during the use of practice ammunition, the G36 works absolutely reliably without using any muzzle attachments. It is available with a 4 position selector: safe, single, 2 round burst and full auto (two round burst trigger group). I'm not so sure about those Beta-C magazines though, think feed problems.

My favorite part: The rifle is capable of firing tens of thousands of rounds without having the need to clean. This is in contrast with the direct impingement system of the M16, which requires more frequent cleaning to cycle reliably. Nah, we don't want those, people will confuse them with the AK47... You want our government? Take it, you can have it, they can't do anything right.

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COLUMBUS, Ind., May 13, 2007 – When National Guard planners set in motion a training exercise to test the force's abilities as the first military responder to a catastrophic nuclear explosion, it was destined to fail.

That's exactly what they wanted.

National Guard Chief Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum said yesterday his staff deliberately put together the worst possible scenario that would test the limits of the Guard's ability to respond to such a disaster and interact with other state and federal agencies.

That scenario played out on a sprawling, 1,000-acre rural training area just outside of Indianapolis, Ind., as more than 2,000 National Guard troops and hundreds of state and federal emergency response agencies worked through the disaster scenario of a 10-kiloton nuclear explosion in Indianapolis.

Named "Vigilant Guard," the exercise put into place new capabilities and technologies – nearly all of which have been developed since 9/11 – that have yet to be tested in an exercise of this scale.

"This exercise is designed to see how far we can go," Blum said. "We are trying to find out what we can do and what we need to work on. We will stress this exercise until we fail."

In fact, even as early communications problems were overcome, Blum said they would continue to stress any successful solutions until they, too, would eventually fail.

"We're not setting this thing up to work. We're setting it up to stress it," he said.

"We have got to plan for the worst and exercise for the worst-case situation so that when this nation is attacked, we are best prepared as possible," he continued. "We owe it to the American people to be as fully prepared as we can, so we're going to make this exercise as demanding as possible."

As military helicopters circled the skies of the self-contained city-like training area at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, the sights and sounds certainly resembled that of a disaster area. Smoke rose from rubble piles as jackhammers blasted away at the piles of concrete. Humvees and emergency response vehicles scattered the area. Satellite communications gear poked up outside a city of tents and travel trailers that served as command posts.

Those simulating being injured cried as they were carried to decontamination tents where their "wounds" could be cared for. Trained canines sniffed for bodies in the rubble. Nearby, a crew extracted a person from a multi-story high rise by strapping her to a gurney and lowering her down the side of the building.

Blum rejected reporter's comments that the training was rehearsed. He said the only things missing from the training, thankfully, were actual injuries. Everything else was as realistic as safety constraints would allow.

"Go look at these guys. There's nothing simulated about the perspiration and the fatigue that they're feeling while doing this," Blum said.

The top guard officer in Indiana echoed Blum's comments.

"We learned in the military a long time ago how to train – you don't do it with table top exercises – you gotta' roll in the weeds, you gotta' get in the mud," said Indiana Adjutant General Army Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger.

The adjutant general said that his state simulated a request for about 80,000 guardsmen to respond to the disaster. In reality, guardsmen from surrounding states responded, including Kentucky, Ohio and Illinois.

"We're doing this from the local level all the way to the national level. We are here training and we are learning a lot," Umbarger said.

The first civilian responders on the scene were made up of emergency management and response crews from a 700-person rotation out of the Indianapolis area, said Earl Morgan, director of public safety for Indianapolis.

He said that this training is critical to establishing the relationships that would be needed during an actual emergency. Prior coordination makes actual relief efforts seamless and instills confidence in the community, he said.

"We cannot over emphasize how important it is that all of these threads work together in a common way so that our response efforts are coordinated. One of the things that we know at the local level is that, if those threads do not connect in a common way, the citizens will ... start to lose confidence in the local units of government," Morgan said.

At the sight of the collapsed building, Air Force Lt. Col. Kim Sencingiver said efforts to extract simulated victims were working well between the civilian and military responders.

"It's outstanding. The National Guard and the local responders have been doing an excellent job," she said. "The interoperability has been wonderful. We are working closely together sharing information and skills are very similar."

One of the noncommissioned officers in the Guard's newly formed Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP teams, said this training was "fantastic."

"Our guys are motivated and well trained. They are doing exactly what they are trained to do – better than anybody expected," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Ted Blanford, a member of the search and extraction team from the 1194th Engineer Company from Ohio.

"We have a very clear purpose. We know that we are here to save lives and that's what we're doing," he said.

Blum said training events such as Vigilant Guard, and emerging technologies, have made the Guard “dramatically” more prepared for such a disaster, but that he will never be fully satisfied.

“We’re never going to be satisfied; nor should we be,” Blum said.

“The American people deserve the best response we can give them. The only way (we) can do that is to have the best people you can find. Train them to the most demanding standard you can, and give them the best equipment you can find in the world, and then you have a capability that hopefully can save you and your family when you need it,” he said.

Under the umbrella of the US Northern Command’s preparedness exercise “Ardent Sentry,” Vigilant Guard is part of a triad of recent Guard exercises, the other two being “Northern Edge” and “Hurrex.” Northern Edge started May 7 and runs through May 18 and is a joint training exercise in Alaska in which military and civilian agencies respond to multiple simulated terrorist incidents. Hurrex ran from April 30 to May 10 and was a command post exercise simulating three hurricanes striking the New England states. Vigilant Guard started May 7 and will run through May 18.

NORTHCOM Commander Air Force Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr. said lessons learned from the exercise will benefit the entire country in establishing how his command will respond to disasters.

Well, that’s reassuring...

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Speaking of which, you know it’s coming and you hope deep down in your soul it isn’t. God knows our souls and no doubt hears our prayers, be they spoken or not. I’d felt that way once before, during the month of October in the year 19 and 62. I was 19 years old and already a drunk. I can’t remember the Tech Sergeant’s name, but he came around and told us to listen up, President Kennedy would be making an announcement. There was a lot of speculation, and some of those civilians had fought in WW II or Korea or both.

One of them was a retired Master Sergeant, can’t remember his name either (Krieger?). He was almost right on the money. He said something like, “You know, it feels like we’re going to war.” I didn’t know who Bill Dana was then or I might have said, “Gee, I hope not.” We listened to President Kennedy, describe what came to be known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. SAC ended up at DEFCON 2, the highest we’d ever been, as far as I know. I told the story often I’ll not repeat it, again. Like I’ve said, I would see the B-47s with their nuclear weapons from our barrack’s room window.

I was too young to really understand the Berlin Airlift. I’d imagine that the adults back then were probably thinking the same thing I was years later, “Please, God, no.” In 1962

we came as close as we ever did. The Cold War ended, some think; I say it didn't... Congress says we can't build the reliable replacement warheads and we have to keep nukes on all of our D-5s. The Democrats, anyway, I'm not sure about the Republicans. I read somewhere that the numbers I use are wrong. The math is 14 times 24 times 8 equals 2,688. Plus 500 Minuteman III missiles with at least one warhead each. 2,688 plus 500 equals 3,188. There are as many as 400 TLAM-N warheads floating around out there, somewhere. 3,188 plus 400 equals 3,588. Then, we have 18 B-2 Spirits capable of carrying nukes. 18 times 16 equals 288 plus 3,588 equals 3,876.

Aw hell, round it off at 4,000 because some of the fighters can carry nukes, too. No one in their right mind would start a nuclear exchange with someone who has 4,000 nuclear weapons they can deliver in waves. George thought Vlad was his buddy. Some of us knew better. Then there that Chinaman, Hu. He doesn't have as many, but he does have this tremendous military buildup. Are you asking yourself, "Why," yet? Add to that a crackpot in Tehran, another in Pyongyang and a third in Caracas and a bunch of radical Muslims scattered all over the globe and you have a recipe for disaster.

It was never if, just when and what. I somehow think a pandemic might be better, not that it's a good choice. For sure, terrorist attacks kill fewer people, even if they use nukes. There all kinds of disasters and I've considered most of them, written about them and still, I come back to a nuclear exchange. Whether it's by accident, or on purpose, once the missiles start to fly, it's all over except for the dying. I've often said being dead, wouldn't be bad; it's the getting there part that most of us fear.

It could be quick; the weapon could detonate right over your house. It could be slower and you'd die of radioactive poisoning in a couple of days. For most folks, those are the obvious choices; because they didn't prepare. If they don't hit your house or even your city, it starts to get interesting.

I've sent out a few hundred copies of my seven_ten_rule.xls spreadsheet. If nothing else, you can calculate how long before you die. Nah, those people believe it might happen, hence have done some preps. It's the others you need to worry about; they'll panic, maybe get their hands on a weapon and take what you have. Much like in the Twilight Zone episode about the bomb shelter.

KI4U screwed up and sent me 2 copies of Fleetwood's CD. And then, there are all of those downloads I've done – there are about 600,000 files on this computer. I haven't done as much as I probably should have, but it's more than most people have done. Knowledge, is the first, best step. If the day comes that there are missiles in the air, you'd best have the knowledge to go with that AR-15 and the Radway ammo.

o

The A1 and A2 have a fixed carry handle. The A3 and A4 are a flat top with a removable carry handle. A1 and A3 are full auto, A2 and A4 are 3 round burst. The M4 has a "S-1-3" (safe/semi-automatic/3-round burst) trigger group, while the M4A1 has a "S-1-F"

(safe/semi-automatic/fully automatic) trigger group. If you want a real 5.56x45mm, get an H&K G36, it doesn't care if you don't clean it. However, they're LEO and military only.

◦

Thousands of American troops searched on Sunday for three US soldiers missing in Iraq after an ambush in which al Qaeda said it seized "crusader" forces, while a suicide bomber killed 50 people in the Kurdish north. That says it all, in a single word – crusader. They ended about 800 years ago, give or take. Some wars you start last longer than others...

If you're going to strategically reallocate weapons, go for the good ones, the H&K 416 and 417. Too far for me to drive, unfortunately. However, if we get as far as Murfreesboro, Tennessee, why not go to Columbus, Georgia? A separate, associated company, Heckler & Koch Incorporated (HK Inc.) serves the commercial and local/regional law enforcement markets and has offices and a distribution facility in Trussville, Alabama. Do you have any idea how many nuked out cities we'd have to bypass? Me either.

Climate change? Beyond the security checkpoint at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Ames Research Center at the southern end of San Francisco Bay, a small group gathered in November for a conference on the innocuous topic of "managing solar radiation." The real subject was much bigger: how to save the planet from the effects of global warming. There was little talk among the two dozen scientists and other specialists about carbon taxes, alternative energy sources, or the other usual remedies. Many of the scientists were impatient with such schemes. Some were simply contemptuous of calls for international cooperation and the policies and lifestyle changes needed to curb greenhouse-gas emissions; others had concluded that the world's politicians and bureaucrats are not up to the job of agreeing on such reforms or that global warming will come more rapidly, and with more catastrophic consequences, than many models predict. Now, they believe, it is time to consider radical measures: a technological quick fix for global warming.

"Mitigation is not happening and is not going to happen," physicist Lowell Wood declared at the NASA conference. Wood, the star of the gathering, spent four decades at the University of California's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he served as one of the Pentagon's chief weapon designers and threat analysts. (He reportedly enjoys the "Dr. Evil" nickname bestowed by his critics.) The time has come, he said, for "an intelligent elimination of undesired heat from the biosphere by technical ways and means," which, he asserted, could be achieved for a tiny fraction of the cost of "the bureaucratic suppression of CO₂." His engineering approach, he boasted, would provide "instant climatic gratification."

Why are his ears brown? Oh, I see. But, what does that have to do with the security implications of global climate change? Maybe some things aren't related.

◦

"I don't like it, Gar-Bear. The Russians have those new subs with the Topol-M missile."

"We have more. You're right of course, if we're not going to have a war, why are all of our enemies building their militaries?"

"I'm beginning to believe you. It's not if, just when and what."

"Do you think we ought to roll out our situational ethics and get those HMMWVs now?"

"I don't know, I don't want to go to jail, you know."

"It's totally up to you, Ron. If we opt for getting them now, I think the best plan would be to not repaint them. If we leave them in their military paint scheme, we can hide them in plain sight. With everyone here helping with the final problems of the big one, what are 2 more military vehicles parked at the Tommy's hamburger joint next door?"

"How would we do this? It would take 3 people, one to drive us to Barstow and 2 to drive the Hummers back."

"We could use either John or Kevin to take us there. If they're busy, Amy could take us."

"And what, just jump in a Hummer and drive it off?"

"No, we want the uparmored versions, we'd have to make sure that's what we grabbed."

"You think they just run those to town? I mean, hell, they'd waste a lot of fuel."

"Partner, those Marines and/or civilians aren't paying for it, what do they care? I'd prefer to think of it as a return on our investment."

"What investment?"

"Our tax dollars."

It became a struggle about whether we wanted the Hummers bad enough to simply steal them. If we took them before the war, it was stealing; if we waited, it was strategic reallocation. I concluded that it was really only a matter of timing, stealing is stealing, regardless of what you chose to call it. There might be less risk doing it now, rather than waiting. The M1114:

Engine: 6.5 liter Turbo diesel 190hp
Transmission: 4-speed Automatic
Suspension: Independent Double A-Frame
Brakes: Hydraulic Power Disc
Max Speed: 78mph

Weight: 12,100 lbs.

Range: ~275 miles

Grade: 40%

Side slope: 30%

Other: Full-time 4wd; run flat tires; 130" wheelbase

Armor protection: 7.62mm perimeter; 155mm artillery overhead; 12 lbs. front and 4 lbs. rear mine protection; waterproof dual batteries; electric de-ice system; turret assembly; heavy duty air conditioning

Paint scheme: yes

Price: You can't afford one; Arnold can't afford one and he's almost a billionaire

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More on the subject of a return on our investment. If China or Russia does attack us, that means that the government failed to provide for the National Defense, a duty of the government. Retaliation doesn't count. If they're not going to do what we pay them to do, I want my money back, with interest; and not in the nearly worthless money they're printing.

We talked about doing that for about 3 months. Soon it was time to think about planting garden and with that looming, we wouldn't have time to run up to Barstow. So rather than wait any longer, off we went. We got two of them, both M1114s. It made sense to park them at the entrance of Moon Shadows Housing tract, most people would just assume the military was there checking on something. As insurance, we had Chris installed an under-dash cutoff switch; trite, but it worked. We kept the M240s in my garage with several hundred rounds of belted 7.62x51mm.

"Hey you guys, put down the hoes, the EAS is at it again."

"What now?"

"Air Defense Emergency. What does that mean?"

"IIRC, Air defense emergency is an emergency condition, declared by the Commander in Chief, North American Aerospace Defense Command. It indicates that attack upon the continental United States, Canada, or US installations in Greenland by hostile aircraft or missiles is considered probable, is imminent, or is taking place. It's Katy bar the door time. You get the stuff in the shelter and we'll grab the Hummers. Ron, you'd better call Lyn."

"I'll take a Hummer and go get her, Gar-Bear. I can call her on my cell on the way."

It was a Saturday morning, barely 9am. We were hoeing before it started to get hot. When I came down the street with the Hummer, yelling at people, we soon had a line down the sidewalk of people wanting in the shelter. The first requirement for admittance

was fluent English. We ended up with the usual crowd and had no more than locked the blast hatch when the ground shook, not unlike an earthquake, but different.

"Where do you suppose that was?"

"California?"

"Yeah, I know, but where in California?"

"If it was up north, it must have been a big one. How about EAFB or MCLS, Barstow?"

"How much gas do you have for your generator?"

"About 1,400 gallons, it should be enough. I pulled the main after I fired it up; we have enough for about 60 days."

"What's for lunch?"

"I can whip up some macaroni salad."

"Again?"

"Would you rather have MREs?"

The ladies ended up fixing macaroni and cheese with Spam. That wasn't much better than MREs, if I read the mood right. Then again, since we were eating our food, I didn't really care. About the only thing most of them had of their own in the shelter was a few changes of clothes, firearms and whatever they brought from their refrigerators. Maybe we could get Elvia to fix Cuban food for supper. She's a very good cook.

This time we got a little over 200R. That's 25 days to 100mR and 45 days to 50mR, in theory. I learned a lot of new card games, but really had trouble concentrating. I was worried that we might lose water and the garden wouldn't get irrigated. I was worried than Damon and Derek and their families weren't safe. I was even worried that someone might figure out the cutoff switches and steal the Hummers. I didn't understand how those security devices that Chris used worked, or I wouldn't have been worried about the vehicles. It was one of those 1990s security devices that you had to insert a link in, probably a coded link of some kind.

The Storm – Chapter 8

I can't speak for the others, but, I suddenly felt very old. I had long hoped to have died of old age before this came to pass. Don't get me wrong, I expected it anytime and had made all the preparations that time, money and stealing allowed. You can prepare, but can you truly be fully prepared? I think not. There are two types of preparation, physical, ergo food, shelter, etc. and mental and that requires no description. Some of us, the Squirrels, TB2Kers, those at War Rifles and even Minion Report were probably as ready as we could be, under the circumstances. For all the polls taken on the websites and forums... well never mind.

It began to get warm in our hole in the ground, but all we could do was run fans and move the hot air around. I'd considered that, but to have air conditioning in the shelter would have required a much larger generator. It was basically a closed or semi closed environment. Apparently A. Friend got his large shelter facility ironed out, he hadn't said otherwise. Flea was up in the mountains but I couldn't recall if he had the basement. After a few tornado scares, Derek had arranged something in Flippin so they had a place to go and supplies for when TSHTF. Damon had a basement and supplies and several model rockets.

o

The hands on the clock seemed to slow down as the shelter heated and the outside radiation level rose. During the first 2 weeks, I didn't bother to connect the antennas, assuming there would be too much static to raise anyone on the ham bands. Fortunately, Chris took over the duties of keeping the generator oil changed and someone had brought a case of Miller Genuine Draft. That was tempting, I wouldn't say otherwise. In the end, I settled for a Coca-Cola Classic, I didn't want to go where a bottle of beer would take me; they only had a case, after all.

I spent a lot of time in the storage room/armory. I could smoke in there and maybe I just felt better cleaning the guns and making sure we were ready when the time came to leave. We discussed the radiation issue and opted for a 45 day stay. Of all the people in the shelter, only 4 of us smoked, Ron, Linda, Amy and me. A comment on our present society?

Our first stop wouldn't be MCLB, Barstow, it would probably be an archery shop. If the damage to this country was as extensive as one might imagine, in time, firearms would become nothing more than clubs. We also had a discussion of the TTAPS study and how that projection would affect global warming. We still have a climate change, but the majority felt the temps would go down, not up. When they were all satisfied that they were right, I mentioned nuclear summer. I had enough files and studies on my computer to convince Albert Einstein that time warp was possible. I printed out one copy of some of them so they could become better informed.

When I finally connected the antennas, we spent a lot of time on the radio saying "CQ, CQ, CQ, (call sign), Palmdale, California, looking for a comeback." We tried 80 meters, 75 meters, 40 meters and 20 meters. Unfortunately we were near the peak of the solar cycle, that didn't help. The peak of Cycle 24 should come in 2011.

o

"50 mR, are we ready?"

"More than ready. You'd better think about taking a jacket, it could be cool out."

"In July? Get out of here. Who is going first?"

"Not me, partner, I'll need the winch. You'll need to take your Tac-50; someone might have broken into the garage and stolen the M240s."

"We didn't get the JP8."

"I know, but Palmdale Regional has Jet A."

"Why are you wearing BDUs?"

"Because I don't have MARPAT, ACUs or ABUs." (Marines, Army and Air Force)

"That isn't what I meant."

"They just think I'm an old NCO, I'm wearing an E-9 pin."

Is that why you cut your hair so short?"

"Certainly."

It was time to see if we could get the school bus to run and put it across the entrance to the housing tract. That and the M1114s, should make someone think twice about trying to come in. What I didn't expect to happen at all happened next, about a week later. Do you know what a M1070 and a M1000 look like? We have one and it's loaded. I believe he said it's a M1A2SEP with a newly installed engine. That's one friggin large truck. They had 10 reloads for the gun and enough 7.62 and .50BMG to last until the guns wore out. My favorite ET and his 3 kids came along, in a separate vehicle of course, a tanker full of JP8. It was a commercial double bottomed tanker like most often seen out here on the west coast.

"Where did you find JP8?"

"At an airport, it's the same as Jet A."

"I know. There's a bunch at plant 42, if they don't have it well guarded."

"Hi Dad, where did you get the M1114s?"

"We stole them right off the street up in Barstow, before the nightmare began."

"Where did you hide them?"

"We didn't. We parked them pointed in at the entrance to the housing tract. Chris added a security system so people couldn't steal them. Where did you steal the tank?"

"Harsh words, Dad; we're protecting it from potential thieves. Got a cold beer?"

"No, but Chris has some Millers. How did you come? Several of the cities along I-40 were potential targets."

"We had to bypass them. That was hard to do in New Mexico, however, Mary managed."

"Did you ride up front?"

"No. I sat in Commanders position manning the .50 cal. It's the AP-APIT combat mix."

"You can't park that here."

"Why not?"

"I had a semi- believable, if not boring, story going. You showing up with an Abrams tank and a tanker full of JP8 adds too much of an unbelievable element to it."

"Maybe I should get all the stuff from the Rock Island Arsenal back too."

"Suit yourself; take anything you can find that came from the Arsenal."

It would be ok, as long as Lance didn't open his garage door. Because he had the only Deputy's badge, we'd moved everything over there after we came out of the shelter. I hadn't expected my boys to show up; however, LEO or one of those military units could always come and visit. With his badge, Lance could legally hold the stuff, just in case. While Ronnie Barrett wouldn't service LEO owned M82A1s, I'm sure he would service the M107s, if the need arose.

We weren't taking any chances; until the LA County Sheriff returned our badges, we limited ourselves to staying close to the law. When you consider that, there really wasn't a reason to do so, not after WW III had happened.

o

My son chose to ignore me, making me feel a whole lot like Rodney Dangerfield. The tank remained on the M1000 and it was parked on Stardust Place facing the north. It would still take 3 people to man the armor, a commander, loader and gunner. As a Sergeant First Class, Derek technically qualified as a tank Platoon Sergeant. He said if he moved back to Iowa, and returned to his old unit, he wouldn't be well received because he'd advance 2 ranks in a different unit.

We did talk and he explained that the current move was to perform maintenance on all of the M1A1s, upgrading them to M1A2SEPs. The best we could hope for now was perhaps completing the vehicles already at the civilian company performing the upgrades and even that seemed unlikely. When he saw the bows and arrows he asked if I was planning for the long term.

"The way I see it, we're going to run out of bullets, primers and powder. A person can only reload brass so many times before it's unusable. It might last my generation, possibly even yours. You kids will probably have to go back to an earlier form of weapon. If we could get to Ventura, Cold Steel's factory is there and they manufacture everything from knives to spears."

"How far is it?"

"Back roads about 90 minutes, but I'm not sure where the factory is. We'll have to find a yellow pages when we get there, assuming we decide to go."

"What else do they have?"

"Tomahawks, knives, spears, machetes, blowguns, Spetsnaz shovels and assorted other things. Wait, I think I do have the address, let me look. There you go, Cold Steel, Inc., 3036-A Seaborg Ave., Ventura, CA 93003 800-255-4716 or 805-650-8481. Forget that, the phones are out. I'll check my Thomas Guide."

"Are there any empty houses here?"

"About half the housing tract. Why don't you boys take the house on either side of ours?"

"Will your generator power all 3?"

"It barely powers ours, plus I'm almost out of fuel. You have diesel fuel, maybe we can find a 100kw diesel unit."

"Where?"

"I'm not sure, but I think I have a name and address in one of my stories. Maybe Big John. Let me check. Here it is, a company in Fontana named Associated Power that

carried all kinds of MQ Whisper Watt generators in sizes up to 1875kva. Fontana is right next to Rancho Cucamonga if you don't know the area."

"Are they still there?"

"We won't know until we look. I don't know if they'll run on Jet A/JP8, but we can try."

"They should, its kerosene based."

◦

By now, you should have noticed this piece is more philosophy oriented and less oriented to entertainment. There is no shortage or more entertaining stories out there, Fleataxi, Greene, ChiliPalmer and several other authors can write the entertainment and I'll continue to stress survival philosophy. If you can get your hands on something by Halffast, AT Hagan or TS Sherry, they're better reads. AT Hagan is very well versed in survival foods, too.

Jose lives to the left of Dave on the picture I referred to earlier (on the corner). His major contribution was chickens and eggs, they have chickens. If you draw a line from Dave to Dick's, the house in between is Jose and his new girlfriend. He was our former gardener.

You have probably noticed the absence of my favorites, the cowboy guns, ergo, single action revolvers and lever action center fire rifles. I like them and will keep an eye open in case I get the chance to strategically reallocate a few, but they're impractical because of the reloading time. I do know where to look, The Gun Shop, they usually have dozens of them, mostly used.

◦

I wasn't the same man I had been 10 years before and had nothing in common with the boy I was in the Air Force, save my love of firearms. When someone suggested simply helping ourselves to whatever was available, I opposed the idea. I explained that I saw a difference between looting and strategic reallocation. If you acquired necessities that no one was claiming, it might qualify as the latter. If you confronted someone to take what they had, probably so you would have more, it was looting, pure and simple. A fine line, I know.

The garden had to be replanted with short season crops, I can only assume the fallout got to the emerging vegetables. We traded for 2 steers and while it was a mess, I got them cut into something edible, barely. Jose had a rooster and the following year produced a lot of eggs and some meat. That fall, we got 3 hogs and I managed to mangle them too. Dick built a small smokehouse and cured the bacon and hams. He did pretty well, all things considered. A hog produces 2 large hams and 2 smoked picnics, plus a fair amount of slab bacon. No one living in Moon Shadows would starve this year.

I would have thought that we'd have had trouble because we had food. Two Hummers equipped with M240s and backed up by a 120mm gun, a Ma Deuce and 2 7.62 machine guns (both M240s) must have kept them away. The fences in the center of the tract came down, making way for a very large garden, planted the following year with heirloom seeds.

Eventually, the remaining residents located their kids and placed them in the empty houses in the tract. Realizing we were actually short on armament, we made one trip to MCLB, Barstow. We recovered M14s, M16s and an assortment of other weapons plus a lot of ammo. We cleaned out what remained of Cold Steel in Ventura and worked over several abandoned pharmacies, assuring us a 5 year supply, at least.

o

The country never rebuilt after the war. We had some things, they replaced the downed towers and lines, giving us electricity, from the wind turbines, for the near future. The population of the Antelope Valley dwindled, eventually falling to under 100,000, possibly fewer. We never heard from our new amigo again. For all I knew, he was sitting well supplied up near Elko. I did hear from Russ. While he had recovered from the Whipple's Disease, he lost his job when they nuked Salt Lake City. I talked to him on the 75-meter band, he was trying to reach me using a neighbor's ham rig. That had to be a fluke. I always figured that if anyone could do well after the war, it would surely be the Mormons.

As long as we could get water, the AV would continue to produce crops and raise livestock. There was quite a bit of Jet A available in the AV, enough to run the few Hummers we recovered. We didn't require an alarm siren in the tract, all one had to do was grab a gun and ammo when he/she heard the turbine whine up on the Abrams. Eventually, somebody opened a new locker plant and processed the beef, pork and poultry, for a share.

Damon became the wealthy one in the end, he wasn't afraid to shop LA and found a lot of gold and silver, especially coins. He left the jewels for other thieves. We managed to gather a fair amount of staples, cigarettes and especially toilet paper. The city of Palmdale had managed to repair the water and sewer lines damaged in the earthquake before the war.

Ron showed us a little known propane storage facility, giving us gas for our gas appliances. Dick didn't have enough jets to convert everything, but he knew where to get what he needed. I was able to refill my gasoline tank and find enough PRI-G to stabilize it until it ran out. We needed the fuel for the rototillers.

When, in time, we lost electrical power, we had several large diesel fueled generators and the equipment to synchronize them, thus retained power. We would do so until we were out of Jet A, #2 diesel and parts to rebuild the generators.

I got so I couldn't walk and Damon scrounged me a couple of replacement wheelchair batteries. Chris welded together a gun rack of sorts mounted on a cart I could pull with my chair. With my chair set to the slowest speed, I could make dozens of laps around the housing tract, checking on people and keeping an eye out for would be thieves. Stated another way, I got a lot of visiting done and never once fired a weapon.

One morning, Linda came over to tell us, Ron had passed in his sleep. They had moved into Moon Shadows after the war, mainly for security, I suppose. Per his wishes, I finally got my Super Match and Derek the Tac-50. I still had almost 1,000 rounds of that South African surplus left over to go with the military ammo we'd picked up. I gave Derek my Loaded and kept the Super Match, telling him it was his when I went.

I eventually got a 7½" Colt Peacemaker and a Paladin holster. I had both a model 94 in .45 Colt and a Marlin 1895 Cowboy in .45-70. Derek disposed of the LAWs and grenades when he thought they were no longer safe to use. We were careful to preserve our ammo and only shot enough to stay proficient with our weapons.

I can't tell you why, but, I outlived my father. He died at age 78 and I was still getting around in my early 80s. Slowly, but still... Because we never heard from Clarence again, or from Fleataxi, I presumed I was the remaining amigo. What little shooting I did do showed that I was far better with iron sights than those darned scopes. Eventually, Derek and I swapped rifles and I told Damon he could have the Loaded when I went, if he wanted it.

I ran out of Humalin and was forced to manage my diabetes with diet only, even the pills were gone. I didn't have much pancreas left, but that little that was left seemed to work fine and 98% of the time, I was able to keep my blood sugar under 200. They say that old age serves to restore the memory, in some cases, and it did with me. I mostly remained lost in the 50s, my good times.

I got to see my grandchildren all grow up and get married. Jeffrey and Joshua were about the same age and the youngest. Jeffrey was born March 6, 2003 and Joshua on December 19, 2003. I can tell you that because somehow I managed to keep my old Dell computer running, as well as the HP laptop that Amy gave me to use. They were only turned on when we needed to look up another file.

Damon had found enough toner cartridges so I could get to 1.2 million copies with my printer. That included one maintenance kit to be used at 600k copies, with instructions on how to install the kit. There were several pallets of 3 hole drilled paper and a few cases of ring binders. I printed as much as I thought they might need in the near future.

One of these nights, I was going to go to bed and not wake up the next morning, it was my turn. I no longer feared dying or death, it might actually be a relief. I sat Derek down one night and had him repeat the story of the development of the current main battle

tanks, the Abrams, Challenger, Leopard and the Leclerc. I knew the story, but it was one of those stories you could never get enough of.

"Dad, at the time the four countries were developing their new main battle tanks. The British developed the armor, the Germans the gun, we developed the engine and the French developed an autoloader. As you know, the British developed the first tank during WW I and the French went with smaller, medium tanks. During the 2nd war, the Germans had a jump on the Allies, especially in their guns. They had the biggest and meanest tanks in that war, but they never had a chance to really develop and refine them, mostly because of that madman they had running the country. The Russians and US far outstripped German tank production and while they were under gunned and armored, they were able to overcome the German tanks.

"After the war, the Russians continue to develop their tanks but the US didn't really take any large steps. When they developed the T72, our four countries moved to develop a new universal MBT. They ended up with 4 models I mentioned, each country favoring their version. In the end, we went with the Abrams using our own gun and British armor. The British and Germans also went with their particular model, both using the British armor. The British kept their rifled gun and the Germans and the French went with the basic German gun, in different calibers (barrel length). We used our gas turbine and the others diesel. Only the French went with the auto loading gun. The French also use the British armor.

"Each tank has its strengths and weaknesses. Our gun was too small and targeting system unrefined, leading to the M1A1, with the German gun, heavier armor and an improved fire control system. The UK, Germany and US, went to an improved model, the Challenger II, Leopard II and M1A2 Abrams. The French went with upgradeable armor. We came up with the SEP, a partial upgrade, mostly of the targeting system. The Germans went with a longer 55 caliber gun.

"The Challenger 2 and Abrams have the best armor, the Leopard 2 the best gun and both we and the French have highly refined fire control. We had intended on using the new engine developed for the Crusader to replace the Abrams turbine, but that fell by the wayside when the Army dropped the project. What we should have done was replace the engine with the Crusader engine and the gun with that L55 gun the Germans use. We'd have had an effective range of 8,000 meters and the fire control system to handle it with a nominal upgrade."

"I guess it doesn't much matter now, does it, son?"

"Nope. That M1A2SEP sitting on the M1000 transport represents our latest MBT. You look tired, are you feeling ok?"

"I'm tired, Derek, as tired as I can ever remember. All my get up and go, got up and went."

"Do you need anything? Should Damon and I go looking for meds or something?"

"No. Anything you'd find would be seriously out dated and I doubt it would do any good. I miss my friends, I miss drinking a cold bottle of beer when I feel like it and I'm not so sure I'm really up to any more change."

"Here," he said, handing me a cold Millers GD. "That about all I have to offer, enjoy it, that's the last of it."

I opened the last pack of Kool's remaining and enjoyed my beer. It was good, but it was also the last bottle. We visited a while longer, him telling war stories and me recounting my life. When my head began to nod, I had one last smoke and went to bed. He said he'd see me in the morning and we'd talk some more. I was asleep in minutes.

The next day, when I hadn't gotten up to get ready for guard duty, Sharon checked on me. I was there in body only, and cold at that.

"Hey Ron, Clarence, what gives?"

"How do you feel?"

"I feel... good, now that I think about it. Whoa, you're dead."

"We're all dead, you passed last night during your sleep. Your shovel is over there. Because we all recovered, I worked a deal, a few hundred years of shoveling coal and we get to go upstairs. Just had to have that one last beer, didn't you?"

"Yeah, so?"

"That's why you're here, Gar-ree. It cost you a few thousand tons of #9 coal."

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